FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 FEBRUARY 1985

Egypt-Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres met with Egyptian presidential envoy Usamah al-Baz in Jerusalem on 26 February, according to Jerusalem radio. While official sources refused to confirm that the Egyptian envoy is really Usamah al-Baz, they said an announcement on the talks will be made on 27 February, the radio noted. Meanwhile, amidst official "optimism" over Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative, Jerusalem television reported that the inner cabinet will meet on 28 February for an "initial debate."

In a related development, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf expressed "astonishment" over President Mubarak's statements, saying that they "ignore" the PLO's role in any possible negotiations, Radio Monte Carlo announced.

Israel

The state budget proposal includes financing for two new settlements in Judaea and Samaria, according to *HATZOFE*. The government had decided on the establishment of six new settlements but there are no funds for four of them, the paper noted.

Lebanon

Israel will continue its "heavy handed" policy in Lebanon as a result of which 37 "terrorists" have been killed or wounded, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. He also criticized UNIFIL for obstructing IDF operations against Shi'ite terrorism, describing the French troops as "the biggest bastards," according to Jerusalem television. Meanwhile, the Israelis have imposed overnight curfews in all villages south of the Al-Litani River, Jerusalem radio noted, and they have banned riding motorcycles and driving cars without passengers. As for Israel's Shi'ite opponents, the "Al-Sadr suicide brigade" informed *AL-SAFIR* that it intends to launch seven suicide operations against U.S. and Israeli institutions worldwide if the Israelis continue their "genocide" operations in southern Lebanon, according to TANJUG.

In Damascus, the Syrian foreign minister condemned Israel's "brutal actions" in Lebanon during a meeting with the ambassadors of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, Damascus television reported. A Lebanese official in Beirut likewise summoned the ambassadors of the same countries to the Foreign Ministry to urge their support for Lebanon's complaint against Israel lodged with the Security Council, Beirut radio noted. In a related report, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed that the Soviet ambassador had confirmed the USSR's willingness to supply Lebanon with "all sorts of defenses."

Commenting on the results of his recent visit to Syria, Phalange Party Leader Elie Karamah welcomed "the change in relationship and the re-establishment of cordial and useful relations with Damascus," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Contacts will continue between the two sides in order to "rectify" the picture of the Lebanese situation received by Syrian officials, he added, and the Phalangists are confident that the recent deterioration of the security situation in the Al-Kharrub region will not go beyond "certain limits" because of Syria's "reassuring" stand.

Iran-Iraq War

Kuwaiti Tanker Incident — During talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Behazad Nabavi "formally expressed regret" over the 18 February rocket attack on a Kuwaiti container ship in the Gulf which resulted in the death of a Japanese seaman, KYODO reported. While Nabavi did not confirm that the attack was made by an Iranian plane, he pledged that Iran "will ensure" safe navigation in the Gulf, the agency added.

POW Issue — Responding to Iran's announcement about releasing disabled POW's, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Baghdad radio said Iraq is ready to receive any prisoners Iran releases to Turkish authorities. Iran's UN representative announced that Iran will boycott a UN Security Council meeting requested by Iraq to discuss the UN observers POW report, according to Voice of the Masses radio.

Pakistan

Elections — According to provisional results from the 25 February National Assembly elections "several big names" were defeated and a "substantial number" of young legislators were elected, Karachi radio reported, in an "impressive" voter turnout. Among those defeated were the ministers for defense, labor, and culture, according to AFP.

DRA Protest — The government rejected a DRA protest that 400 persons crossed the border from Pakistan and attacked Barikowt on 23 February, Karachi radio announced.

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'Arafat Outlines PLO Orientations, Priorities

AU261649 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] We will now hear a part of the interview granted by Yasir 'Arafat to Zdenka Markic-Dizdarevic, Radio Sarajevo journalist. In connection with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the future plans of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording in Arabic fading into superimposed Serbo-Croatian translation] What is happening in the PLO now is that we have reached an agreement with our brethren in Jordan according to the conclusions adopted by the 16th and 17th sessions of the Palestine National Council. It is necessary to create special relations with Jordan on the basis of a confederation. We have reached an agreement with the Jordanians to try to find jointly a just solution to the Middle East crisis. This implies the withdrawal of the Israelis from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

In the Arab field, we want to stop the war between Iraq and Iran because this war against the Iranian and Iraqi peoples is a war against the Arab nation, the Muslim people, the Palestinians, and the Palestinian cause. We are also trying to restore Egypt to its proper place in the Arab world, a place that will be far from the Camp David policy, particularly bearing in mind the orientation of President Mubarak and the Egyptian people who oppose a normalization of relations with Israel.

In addition, we confidently look at the role of the nonaligned countries. The role of the PLO in the Nonaligned Movement is efficacious, particularly now that our friend Rajiv Gandhi, successor to our great friend Indira Gandhi, is president of the movement. We will strive, together with our friends the Yugoslavs and the Arab brethren, to continue to work for the strengthening of the Nonaligned Movement.

These are our orientations and priorities, to put it briefly. [end recording]

Palestinian Leaders React to Mubarak's Proposals

Fatah's Khalaf

JN270636 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has expressed astonishment at President Husni Mubarak's statements which he says are close to the Israeli, U.S. position regarding the Palestine question. He said that these statements ignore the PLO's role in any possible peaceful negotiations.

In a statement in Tunis yesterday, Abu Iyad said that President Mubarak has given all the cards to the United States and Israel through proposing direct negotiations between Israel and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in Cairo or the United States. The second man in the Fatah movement said that the Egyptian proposal is within the framework of coordination among Jordan, Egypt, the United States, and Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights.

DFLP 'Source'

JN270717 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] A responsible source in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has stressed that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's statements calling on the United States to request the Zionist entity and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to hold negotiations, reveal the essence of the Amman liquidating agreement; it also authorizes King Husayn to hold direct negotiations with the Zionist entity under U.S. auspices and on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242. In a statement published yesterday in reply to the head of the Egyptian regime's statements, the DFLP source added that this also reveals that the formula of the Amman agreement is merely to endorse the results of bilateral deals at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights and their sole, independent right to representation. The source has called on all the Palestinian forces and personalities, including the Fatah leaders, cadres, and bases, to resume their efforts to foil this liquidating agreement without delay.

PLO's Milhim

GF262004 Doha QNA in Arabic 1945 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Amman, 26 Feb (QNA) — Tonight a senior Palestinian official here rejected what has been described as an Egyptian initiative to hold a meeting between an Israeli delegation and a Jordanian delegation which would include Palestinians. In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Amman, PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim said the PLO rejects every move or initiative to settle the issue on a unilateral basis. We reject every move that contravenes our national councils' decisions. What has been described as a new Egyptian initiative contravenes the contents of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, he said. Muhammad Milhim said the PLO believes that the best formula for a settlement can be achieved through a joint Arab delegation, under the umbrella of an international conference to be held under the supervision of the United Nations to achieve the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and allow the PLO a representation within the joint Arab delegation.

PLO Executive Committee Appoints Official

GF262020 Doha QNA in Arabic 1940 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Amman, 26 Feb (QNA) — The QNA correspondent in Amman has learned that the PLO Executive Committee has decided to appoint Muhammad Milhem as director of the Occupied Homeland Department in the PLO Executive Committee in addition to his responsibility as director of higher education in the committee.

Explosion 'Killed or Wounded' Zionists in Ashod

JN261915 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Occupied Palestine —The Martyr Hasan al-'Ajjuri group has detonated an explosive charge in the port of Ashdod, south

of Tel Aviv. A military spokesman for the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah —the General Command of Al-'Asifah Forces — said that the explosion killed or wounded a number of Zionist settlers in the port. It also paralyzed traffic in the port as a result of the panic that gripped the Zionist settlers. The enemy admitted this operation, claiming that only two of the settlers were wounded. Extensive material damage was also caused to the port's establishments.

Attack Detailed on Zionist Vehicle in Rafah

JN261737 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] In accordance with the revolution command's policy and in compliance with its decisions to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of conflict, a Palestinian military spokesman has announced that a group of our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland used incendiary bombs to attack a Zionist military vehicle while moving in the city of Rafah, in occupied Gaza, yesterday morning. The Zionist vehicle was burned and a number of Zionist soldiers were seriously wounded in the attack.

The Zionist enemy radio admitted the operation, but, as usual, denied its losses. The radio said that its forces rushed to the area, luanched a large-scale campaign, arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens, and prevented the city's inhabitants from traveling until further notice.

PLO Radio Describes Resistance in South Lebanon

JN261750 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese joint forces heroes used machineguns and rockets yesterday to attack Zionist invasion positions near the Al-Qasimiyah bridge in occupied southern Lebanon. A large number of Zionist soldiers were killed or wounded. A short time after the operation, the joint forces heroes attacked the Zionist positions again, after they had been reinforced by the Zionist occupation patrols. A half-tracked vehicle was destroyed, another damaged, and their occupants killed or wounded.

The Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations, and, as usual, declined to mention the losses. He said that his forces immediately besieged the area, and launched large-scale search and arrest campaign for the joint forces heroes. However, these attempts were in vain.

Saudi Ground Station Takes Control of Arabsat

GF251425 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0513 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Feb (WAKH) — The main control ground station in Dirhab, Saudi Arabia, today [23 February] officially began the receiving operation from Arabsat in the presence of 'Alawi Darwish Kayyal, minister of post, telegraph, and communications, and Dr 'Ali al-Mashshat, director general of the Arab Satellite Communications Organization . Kayyal and Al-Mashshat watched the initial receiving and transmitting operation between the Arab satellite and the main control station in Dirhab. Kayyal and Al-Mashshat then inspected the various sections in the ground station and saw the receiving and transmitting equipment.

Following his tour of the station, the Saudi minister of post, telegraph, and communications held a press conference in which he affirmed that the main station in Dirhab is in full control of Arabsat following the official takeover of the satellite . He urged the Arab states to speed up the completion of their national ground stations and networks so that they can fully utilize the services of the satellite. He noted that most of the ground stations of the Arab countries will be completed within 1 year of the launching of the satellite. He said that the ground stations of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain, and Qatar are now ready to operate and to make use of Arabsat in all fields.

Kayyal lauded the efforts of the information ministries of Arab countries in preparing information, historic, and cultural material and various programs that will be exchanged by the Arab countries through Arabsat. The Saudi minister stressed the need for the authorities in the Arab countries to make further efforts to coordinate the preparation of programs and to cooperate in directing, producing, photographing, and unifying cultural programs so that the material ultimately to be transmitted by Arabsat will be acceptable to all Arab countries. He said that it will not be possible for television receivers to directly pick up material transmitted by Arabsat but that such material will have to be picked up by the television channels of the information ministries of the Arab countries.

Kayyal said that the length of service that Arabsat can give has increased from 7 to 11 years because the fuel was not used to correct the satellite's position but retained to operate the satellite. The Saudi minister said that the second Arab satellite will be launched in mid-Ramadan, May 1985, from Cape Kennedy in the United States.

Asked about the possibility of launching a Saudi satellite, Dr Kayyal said that 90 percent of Saudi Arabia's telecommunications needs are fully covered. He said that the decision to launch a Saudi satellite depends on the results of consultation and economic studies.

The Saudi posts, telegraph, and communication minister affirmed that the Arab satellite is a new step in cooperation and coordination by Arab countries through production, the unification of programs, and the consolidation of common Arab culture and causes.

In a statement released today Dr 'Ali al-Mashshat, director general of the Arab Satellite Communications Organization, Arabsat, said that Arabsat is currently operating satisfactorily and that the results achieved are better than expected. He said that Arab engineers and employees at the Arabsat stations will begin their 2-year training under the supervision of Aerospatiale's instructors in operating the satellite.

Arabsat, which was launched on 9 February 1985, has so far cost $270 million.

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Receives Saudi Crown Prince Message

GF261720 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Manama, 26 Feb (WAKH) — Bahrain Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah received a message today from Saudi Crown Prince, First Deputy Premier and head of the National Guard Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The message which was delivered by Saudi ambassador to Bahrain Ghazi al-Qusaybi dealt with bilateral relations.

Ruler of Sharjah Concludes Visit, Departs

GF261722 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Manama, 26 Feb (WAKH) — Member of the UAE Supreme Council and ruler of Sharjah Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi left here today after a two-day visit to Bahrain. Shaykh Sultan was seen off by HH the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah; Bahrain's Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah; Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of Defense Force Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, and other officials. During his visit, Shaykh Sultan held talks with HH the Amir on means of promoting bilateral relations, Arab and regional issues and matters of mutual interest.

AL-MAWAQIF Comments on Democracy in Kuwait

GF261750 Manama AL-MAWAQIF in Arabic 25 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Democracy in Kuwait Is a Distinguished Mark of Civilization in the Gulf"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait is the only Arab Gulf country which has a parliament elected by the people to participate in the executive authority which legislates various laws and legalizes them after the people's representatives approve them. Through their national assembly, the Kuwaiti people bear full responsibility in steering the country and controlling the government's domestic and foreign policy, guiding it in a way that harmonizes with the people's supreme interest. The parliament in Kuwait has become one of the prominent characteristics of Kuwaiti's modern society.

Undoubtedly the democratic system in Kuwait has enabled it, with all confidence and strength, to face the incidents which Kuwait and the region have witnessed. It is a system which protects Kuwait against any danger. It proves that the people's representatives are fully capable of firmly standing against any act of sabotage which would jeopardize Kuwait's security and sovereignty. Although these representatives differed sometimes with the government policy, they did not differ with them on Kuwait's independence and sovereignty.

We in Bahrain cherish our brothers in Kuwait for their country's civilization and for the democratic march they have made over the past 2 decades. No doubt a democratic system has become an urgent necessity for every society. It is the mesh which filters air, whether this air is from the people and full of passion and selfishness or from the executive authority with all its pressures. This system has its orders and laws which will enable the people and the govenment to be patient in all things. It legalizes the government's decisions and make them acceptable, even if they are hard.

We are full of hope that our leaders who are guarding our security, peace and our achevements, especially His Highness the Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, His Highness the Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Kahlifah, and his highness the heir apparent, Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, will follow the example of Kuwait's democratic system and revive the national assembly with men who are fully aware of their parliamentary responsibilities and who understand their national role under such hard circumstances which the country is passing through.

KUWAIT

Amir Receives Tunisian Envoy, Bourguiba Message

LD261223 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1009 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Feb (KUNA) — The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, today received a message from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba. Its contents have not been disclosed.

The message was conveyed by the president's counsellor Habib Bourguiba, Jr, who had a meeting with the amir of Kuwait in the presence of his counsellor 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi.

The contents of the message have not been made public, but it is believed that it is connected with the situation in the Arab north African region and the efforts to convene a summit for the leaders of the countries ot that region.

Bourguiba, Jr, had a meeting with the Kuwaiti prime minister and heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'abdallah al-Sabah.

Envoy Meets Foreign Minister

LD261601 Kuwait KUNA in English 1111 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Feb 26 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Tuesday received Tunisian Presidential adviser Habib Bourguiba Jr. Shaykh Sabah told KUNA that the meeting was "friendly" and they reviewed brotherly bilateral relations as well as latest developments in the middle east.

The meeting was attended by advisor at the Amiri Diwan 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi and Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Abduljalil Mehiri.

Envoy Reaffirms 'Commitment' To Strengthen USSR Ties

LD251933 Kuwait KUNA in English 1859 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow, Feb 25 (KUNA) — Kuwait Monday reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening its relations with Moscow as the

Soviet Union marked Kuwait's national day. Speaking on Soviet state television to commemorate the occasion, Kuwait's Ambassador 'Adil al-Jarrah said that ties between the two countries "were growing" in all fields and at every level".

He reiterated Kuwaiti support for last year's Soviet Middle East peace initative, stressing that "faithful efforts and constructive action" were vital to an Arab world facing "arrogance towards the Palestinian people, stubbornness in the Gulf war and expansionist designs in Lebanon".

Soviet television also broadcast a documentary on Kuwait filmed by the country's leading Middle East broadcaster Farid Seifulmulukov, outlining the country's development and foreign and regional policy.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Briefs Cabinet on U.S. Visit

GF261848 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired the cabinet meeting yesterday. After the session Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told the SPA correspondent: His Majesty the King briefed the cabinet at the outset of the meeting on the results of his official visit to the United States and on the overall meetings which his majesty held with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and some senior U.S. officials. A joint communique was announced by the media in the Saudi and U.S. capitals when the official visit was over.

The information minister continued: After the briefing his majesty reviewed with the cabinet members the Arab situation and developments which have taken place in the region pertaining to the Palestinian issue. On his majesty's instructions, the cabinet listened to some political and information reports relevant to current issues. The cabinet then heard to his majesty's ideas on the next stage in the region.

The minister said: His majesty discussed with the cabinet some administrative and financial reports and issued directives to the ministers for the general good of the homeland and citizens. The cabinet also discussed some topics on its agenda and issued the necessary decisions and recommendations.

Foreign Minister Departs for Italy, France

GF261932 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] His Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Riyadh this morning beginning a tour which will include Italy and France. He will meet in Rome with Italian Prime Minister BettinoCraxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. During his visit to France, he will meet with French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas. His highness' talks with officials in the two countries will focus on the current developments of the Palestinian issue and relations between the Kingdom and Italy and France.

Positive Developments Follow King's U.S. Visit

LD251316 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Feb 85

["News and Comment" by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] A major development is shaping up concerning the current situation in the Arab region. Within the framework of this Arab development, in which efforts are being made to provide a comprehensive and just solution to the problem of the Middle East, is the Kingdom's current move of sending emissaries to the sister Arab countries to brief their leaders on the results of the historic visit of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to the United States and on his talks in Washington with American President Ronald Reagan. The Kingdom is eager to inform all Arab leaders of the outcome of this visit, which in Arab and international political circles is considered important, resulting in positive and effective steps in the coming stage, particularly if there is a unified Arab stance for finding a just and durable solution to the Middle East problem.

The Saudi move coincides with the beginning of intensive Arab League activity to put the Arab countries in the picture on the issues of the Palestine question, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. The league is also actively trying to determine through consultations, whether the atmosphere is favorable now for convening the Arab summit in Riyadh or whether more time and consultations are needed in light of the efforts exerted by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to persuade the American Administration of the importance of reaching a just peace in the region that acknowledges the rights of the Palestinian people.

Therefore, there are positive expectations that Arab unanimity will be realized for the first time in light of the theses contained in the messages from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to his Arab brothers for preparing an Arab stance on future developments and taking historic collective decisions based on trust in the Kingdom's honest efforts, which his majesty is carrying out, God preserve him.

Among the most significant results of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz' visit to the United States is the joint communique issued in Riyadh and Washington on the outcome of his meeting with President Reagan and the members of his government, which contains an open acknowledgement of the positive aspects of the Fes summit as a just basis for comprehensive peace in the Middle East, meaning support in a more progressive form for the Arab peace plan and a move for the peace process into a more positive dimension. In addition, the Saudi-American communique stressed that the United States has started to view Arab aspirations more realistically through its emphasis on considering the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as the basis for any process toward the attainment of the just peace.

It appears, form all that, that the United States has resumed its quiet diplomacy in the Middle East. According to diplomatic sources in Washington, the United States has expressed its readiness to ammend President Reagan's peace plan to include the return of the occupied Golan Heights to Syrian sovereignty.

Moreover, the chances of participation by the United States and other countries concerned with the Middle East problem in intensive efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict are now improving daily, especially as the time is propitious for tackling the Palestine issue from all its aspects after such a long period when no suitable solution could be found.

U.S. Boeing Company Chosen for Air Force Projects

GF261157 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Feb 85

["Text" of statement issued by Saudi Defense and Aviation Ministry — date not given]

[Text] The defense, aviation, and inspectorship department is pleased to announced the selection of the U.S. Boeing Company for Aviation and Space as the major contractor to execute the royal Saudi Air Force project, known as the Peace Shield project. This project is designed to modernize the command, control, and communications system. This step was adopted following consideration of high technical specifications and competitive measures dealing with the efficiency of specialized international companies.

This announcement took place in accordance with the instructions of his majesty the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, which also states that the value of the equipment and the technical services be reduced 35 percent in accordance with the principle of the economic balance and transfer of industry and technology into our country.

The major contractor in charge of executing this project was chosen on 25 February. The announcement and endorsement of this choice is made simultaneouzly in Washington and Riyadh.

UAE

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

GF261300 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Feb (WAKH) — Yuguslav Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic arrived today in Abu Dhabi on a 2-day visit to the UAE. The Yugoslav minister, who is visiting the UAE for the first time, will hold talks with UAE officials designed to bolster bilateral relations and to [discuss] issues of common interest.

Upon arrival he was received by UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah, a number of Yugoslav officials at the Foreign Ministry, and Yugoslav Ambassador to Kuwait Petar Kostic.

Received by President

GF261302 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received at the Al-Mushrif Palace Yugoslav Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic who is currently on a visit to the country. The audience was attended by His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid, His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah.

PRC Construction, Environmental Minister Arrives

GF261946 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Sharjah, 26 Feb (WAKH) — Rui Xingwen, PRC minister of urban and rural construction and environmental protection, arrived in Sharjah today leading a delegation on an official visit to the UAE. He was received by Muhammad Khalifah al-Kindi, minister of public works and housing, and a number of UAE officials.

Turkish Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

GF261304 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The UAE and Turkey have agreed to promote the development of further cooperation between them, particularly in the trade, economic and financial fields in addition to joint projects, as reported in the minutes of the second meeting of UAE-Turkish joint committee which concluded today in Abu Dhabi. The minutes were signed in Abu Dhabi on the UAE side by Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah and on the Turkish side by Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu. The latter concluded today a 4-day official visit to the UAE.

During his visit the Turkish foreign minister met with His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. He also met with Rashid 'Abdallah and exchanged views with him on bilateral, regional, and international issues of common interest. He also met with a number of senior officials in the state.

According to the minutes of the joint committee meetings, the two sides reviewed the progress attained in the field of trade exchange between them, expressing their satisfaction with the increase of exchanges between them. The two sides also agreed to encourage exchange visits between economic delegations of the two countries and to study matters pertaining to facilitating land, sea, and air freight, especially the sea freight ties between Turkish and UAE ports, together with the possibility of establishing a joint commercial shipping company and establishing Turkish commercial centers in the UAE.

The minutes of the joint committee meeting also include an article stating that the two countries studied the idea of setting up a joint investment company with the aim of developing cooperation in the field of joint investment projects, in addition to the possibility of having the UAE participate in a number of development projects in Turkey.

As for cooperation in economic and technical fields, the two sides agreed to have Turkey train UAE cadres in the fields of petrochemical industry, agriculture, breeding of animals, fisheries, development of sources of ground water and modern irrigation methods, in addition to encouraging of trade between the two countries and cooperation in the field of discovery and extraction

of petroleum. The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the joint committee in Ankara on a date to be set through the diplomatic channels.

Vahit Halefoglu left the country today for home at the conclusion of a visit to the UAE. The Turkish minister was seen off by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah and a number of senior officials at the Foreign Ministry, in addition the Turkish ambassador to the UAE, Taner Baytok.

Al-Shariqah Ruler Returns From Bahrain 26 Feb

GF261840 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1720 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Al-Shariqah, 26 Feb (WAM) — Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Al-Shariqah, returned to the homeland this evening after a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

PDRY

Reportage on 15th Arab Parliamentary Union Session

Chairman Opens Session

GF261400 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, this morning opened the 15th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] at Aden Hotel. The opening was attended by a number of brother members of the Political Bureau and the YSP Central Committee; ministers; members of the PDRY Supreme People's Council; the Arab delegations to the APU session; members of the diplomatic corps in Aden; and a number of guests. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad addressed the session.

Chairman Addresses Parliamentarians

GF261646 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 85

["Text" of speech by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, at the opening meeting of the 15th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] in Aden on 26 February — recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear brothers [words indistinct], brother delegation members, and all those brothers present here. It is a great honor to host the 15th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union in Aden. It pleases me on this occasion to welcome you and to convey to you the greetings of the YSP Central Committee and the Supreme People's Council Presidium. I wish you a good stay in our country and wish your session all success.

Dear brothers. The 15th session of your council is convening amid a very complicated Arab and international situation. The agenda of this session contains very important topics on the grave and conspiratorial challenges our Arab peoples are being subjected to by the forces of the imperialist-Zionist alliance. These challenges cannot be faced without clearing the Arab atmosphere from minor differences and achieving true Arab solidarity against imperialism and Zionism.

What gives this session more significance is that it convenes close to the tension which prevails in the Gulf region, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Horn of Africa, where the threats of tension and instability increase due to the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the continued imperialist military presence in some areas and waters in this region under various pretexts. We do not need to reiterate that the real goals of this imperialist presence in our region are not separated from the overall strategic goals of forming the Rapid Deployment Force, increasing their bases on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, and intensifying their military movements in the Red Sea and the Arab Gulf.

These goals are aggressive and expansionist and threaten the security and stability of all peoples and countries in the region. They are also part of the aggressive threat against our all Arab peoples. The mining of the Red Sea and the threat to international shipping was one of the pretexts justifying the increase and intensification of the imperialist military presence in the region. Therefore, our country's call still stands. This call was made to clear the region of aggressive military presence, a call to convene a summit conference of the region's countries to preserve its security and stability and stave off all threats to our peoples arising from the imperialist military presence. We are confident that an increase in the attention by officials and the people to the importance of preserving stability and security in this region will undoubtedly lead to finding practical means to avoid these threats and to clear the region of all forms of imperialist military presence, whether immobile or mobile.

Brothers. The situation in the Gulf region has become more grave because of the Iraq-Iran war which has cost the life of hundreds of thousands of sons from the two neighboring peoples and which has sapped the energies and resources of the two countries. Our country's stand has been and is still against this war since it began. We also favor settling the dispute through peaceful means to serve the legitimate rights of the two neighboring countries. Our country has also supported all peaceful efforts which have been made in this direction. We still call for stopping this war and for avoiding its continuation which only serves the imperialist-Zionist enemy.

On this occasion we would like to take the opportunity to reaffirm our principled and firm stance on the struggle of our Arab peoples for the victory of their just issues and legitimate rights, foremost of which is the issue of the Arab Palestinian people and their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination, and to establish their national and independent state. In this regard, it is important to point out the great significance of maintaining unity in the PLO -- which is the sole, legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people -- under the current difficult circumstances, during which the threats of the conspiratorial plans and the hostile and expansionist policies, designed to strike at the Palestinian revolution and to push through the capitulatory and

liquidation plans against the Palestinian people's rights, are increasing.

Our country exerted intensified efforts in order to keep the Palestinian arena away from divisions and secondary differences and in order to maintain national unity among the Palestinian revolution factions within the framework of the PLO based on its anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist line. These efforts were crowned with the signing of the Aden-Algiers agreement which still represents a practical and logical framework to end the split in the Palestinian arena. Within this framework we look forward to more efforts and responsible stances by the Palestinian revolution factions to overcome all threats of further splits in the Palestinian arena and to confronting the serious challenges that threaten the Palestinian people.

In our estimation, the Amman agreement deepens and expands the rupture and differences in the Palestinian arena and it will weaken the position and role of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in the course of their struggle against all the capitulatory plans designed to end the rights of the Palestinian people.

With great concern, our country is following the increase in aggressive threats which menace the security and safety of the whole world. We totally support all peaceful efforts and initiatives put forth by the Soviet Union and the socialist countries in order to maintain international peace and to help humanity avoid a nuclear disaster. We call upon the Arab parliaments to support those international efforts that respond to the interests of our Arab peoples and the peoples of the whole world.

O brothers. We are very pleased that this session is being convened in our country and we hope that it will enable you to be acquainted with our country's parliamentary experience, through which our masses participate in administering society's affairs. Our experiences in this field have grown and resulted in further contributions by the people in political, economic, and social affairs which will enable the people to rule the country through democratic means and to increase the effectiveness of the Supreme People's Council and the local people's councils by consolidating and developing democratic traditions in our new society and through the masses' active participation in achieving economic and social development and in constructing a new life. No doubt, the exchange of experiences about Arab parliamentary ways will contribute to developing the work of your union which looks forward to further development, activities, and methods in the course of implementing its responsibilities.

In conclusion, I wish your 15th session success and the achievement of positive results. [applause]

Chairman 'Ali Meets Delegations

GF261806 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received in separate audiences today the Syrian, Algerian, UAE, Jordanian, and Sudanese parliamentary delegations participating in the meetings of the 15th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] Council.

During the meetings, they reviewed parliamentary relations betwen the PDRY and their countries, the current Arab situation, and the means to develop relations among fraternal parliaments to serve the APU's goals and our Arab people's fateful causes.

The delegations expressed satisfaction over their meeting with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and over the efforts the PDRY has made in preparing for the APU conference. They emphasized that the convocation of the 15th session in Aden will enable them to become acquainted with the PDRY's parliamentary experience and the aspects of the new life in the PDRY.

The meeting was attended by Dr Mutlaq 'Abdallah Hasan, YSP Central Committee member and secretary of the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

Mubarak Meets Nonaligned Journalists Delegation
NC261934 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] This afternoon President Husni Mubarak received a delegation from the nonaligned journalists conference currently being held in Cairo. Consultative Council speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim; Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid; Minister of Information Dr Safwat al-Sharif; and Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, chairman of the General Information Organization, also attended the meeting.

Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif said that during the meeting President Mubarak discussed the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, inter-Arab relations, Egypt's nonaligned policy, and Egypt's steps toward finding a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian problem. President Mubarak stressed that Egypt will not abandon the Palestinian cause and that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people must be restored.

President Mubarak explained the need for unity in Arab action at this stage so that the Palestinian issue would take a course toward a just and lasting solution.

'Ali Discusses Mubarak's U.S. Visit, Domestic Issues
NC261612 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated that in addition to economic matters, political issues will be given priority at the talks President Husni Mubarak will hold during his forthcoming visit to the United States.

The prime minister emphasized that Egypt, under the leadership of President Mubarak, is leading the peace process honestly. It is playing its role with regard to the Palestinian issue very sincerely and enthusiastically in order to achieve a just solution to the problem.

Speaking at an open meeting held by the National Democratic Party last night and attended by party Secretary General Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, ministers, members of the Political Bureau, and members of both the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the World Bank has agreed to provide Egypt with approximately $395 million to implement six projects. It has also expressed its readiness to increase this amount to $650 million in order to contribute to electric stations and energy.

During the meeting, Kamal Hasan 'Ali reviewed the various economic goods in stock. He said that Egypt has an electricity surplus amounting to approximately 1 billion megawatts. He said that meats, poultry, wheat, and other basic food commodities in stock are sufficient for 5 to 12 months.

He pointed out that investments in the current 5-year plan amounted to 34.5 billion pounds. In the next plan, efforts will be devoted to conquering the desert and establishing huge industries to confront the population increase, which is estimated to be 1 million citizens every 9 months.

The prime minister also spoke about the rationalization policy. He said that the purpose of this policy is to protect the local industries. He added that the government is waiting for the results of a study, which is to be submitted by committees set up by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, about the rationalization of imports and exports, the needs of the market, and the protection of local industries.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali pointed out that the government's policy is to ban the exportation of any commodity unless the quantity in stock is sufficient to meet local market demands for at least 2 months. He emphasized that the government is providing protection to good local industries and to the public and private sectors.

Envoy in Israel; USSR Rejects Mubarak's Proposal
JN261514 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] In a dispatch from Cairo, REUTER reports that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has sent a personal envoy to Israel. Mamduh Baltaji, head of the Information Department in the Egyptian Government, has declined to disclose the identity of the Egyptian envoy; he simply said that the envoy is in Israel now. The Israeli Prime Ministry indicated that it has no knowledge of the presence of an Egyptian presidential envoy in Israel. It will be recalled that the Egyptian president announced yesterday that he would dispatch Usamah al-Baz with a message for the Israeli prime minister dealing with relations between the two countries and the situation in the region.

Soviet TASS news agency reported today that the USSR rejects the Egyptian proposal to hold an Israel-Arab meeting under the patronage of the United States. The agency added that this proposal is strange.

Romanian Envoy Manescu Leaves Cairo 26 Feb
NC261330 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA) — Manea Manescu, personal envoy of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and vice president of the Romanian Council of State, left Cairo this afternoon following an 8-day visit to Egypt. During the visit he handed President Husni Mubarak a message from the Romanian president and discussed ways of bolstering bilateral relations with Egyptian officials.

Manescu was seen off at Cairo airport by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, minister of planning and international cooperation, and Sa'id Zadah, secretary of the President's Office.

Commentary Views Mubarak Proposal for Dialogue
NC261510 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb Commentary]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has asked the U.S. Administration to begin a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation,

saying that this step would be in preparation for a round of talks in which Israel would also participate. He explained that he does not object to the convocation of these talks in Cairo.

There is no doubt that President Mubarak's ideas are practical, specific, and aimed at establishing solid bases for the peace talks. Both the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government, which are significant parties to the peace process, have shown interest in President Mubarak's ideas.

Official White House spokesman Peter Russel has announced that the United States is prepared to contribute constructively and directly to a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict if the parties concerned agree to hold direct negotiations. Meanwhile, an official U.S. State Department spokesman stated that the United States will discuss President Mubarak's proposal during his visit to Washington next month.

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has also welcomed President Mubarak's proposal, provided that the Palestinians in the delegation are not PLO members.

This prompt response means that the United States and Israel in principle have accepted President Mubarak's proposal.

The U.S. response, for example, is considered to be new support for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. Earlier, a U.S. State Department spokesman had announced that although the agreement is a step in the right direction, there is still a long road ahead. He also said that the agreement contains positive elements that deserve consideration. However, he raised some questions about certain aspects of the agreement.

Therefore, President Mubarak's proposal that the United States begin a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is a logical approach toward examining points of difference, bridging the gap in viewpoints, and reevaluating the U.S. position toward the PLO.

With the aim for involving all the parties concerned in the peace process, President Mubarak declared that he had sent an Egyptian envoy to meet with the Israeli prime minister in Romania. An Egyptian envoy will also arrive in Israel to discuss recent developments in the Middle East.

Thus, Cairo is acting positively, commensurate with the importance of the Jordanian-Palestinian step. It has been able to give objective political support to this step.

It seems, however, that certain information quarters — regrettably based in a friendly country — have not liked Cairo's stand in support of the PLO. These quarters have declared that the United States has rejected President Mubarak's proposal for a dialogue between it and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

We wish to explain that these information quarters — which deal with certain Palestinian factions whose political affiliations are known — have placed the political interest of these Palestinian factions above the supreme interest of the Palestinian people.

These malicious information quarters are blowing some dark clouds in the air in an attempt to hide the truth, confuse the Arab masses, and appease the wicked whims of some auctioneers. This suspect information attempt will not hide the truth. The truth that Egypt defends is the destiny of an entire people and the cause of an entire nation. Those with sick souls cannot hide the truth, no matter how much they excel in lying.

AL-AKHBAR Asks U.S. To Work for Peace in Mideast

NC260818 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 26 Feb 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "A Logical Call from President Mubarak to the United States," *AL-AKHBAR* says: When President Muhammad Husni Mubarak asks the United States to host a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to discuss the next steps for motivating the peace process in the Middle East, he is asking Washington to seize the opportunity, provided by the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, to achieve peace in the Middle East.

President Mubarak's call is logical for many reasons: President Mubarak has waited until the official announcement of the points of the agreement in Amman, and until they were ratified and approved by the PLO Executive Committee.

Moreover, the agreement approves all UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 242; the PLO's approval of the resolution for the first time implicitly means recognition of Israel's right to exists. Washington has always made this a prerequisite for a dialogue with the PLO.

Furthermore, the Middle East question has long been stalemated and the time has come for a new move. America, which has a vital interest in the Middle East, must show an interest in solving this question.

AL-AKHBAR explains that missing the opportunity to achieve peace under these conditions, as King Husayn said 2 days ago, means missing an opportunity for peace in the Middle East.

AL-AKHBAR concludes its article, saying: There is before the U.S. Administration a historic opportunity in the Middle East to achieve the long-awaited peace. We are waiting.

Correction to Information Minister Briefs Mubarak

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Information Minister Briefs Mubarak on Omani Visit," published in the 26 February Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT*, page D2, second paragraph, line two:

...was signed in Oman regarding informational cooperation, ...(changing "Amman" to "Oman")

Foreign Ministry Hits Iran's Statements on POW's

JN261951 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman commented this evening on the repeated Iranian statements about releasing a few disabled POW's and the fallacies contained in those statements, as follows: For some days now, Iranian officials have been making repeated statements about their intention to release a few disabled POW's in an attempt to improve their ugly image following the clear condemnation of them in Red Cross and UN reports. Those statements contained fallacies about Iraq's unwillingness to receive the POW's.

We have previously stated the facts on this subject in a statement issued on 16 February. In this statement, we said that we have informed the Turkish authorities about our agreement for them to receive the Iraqi POW's. We also stated that the Iraqi authorities have given both the Turkish authorities and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission in Iraq a list of 20 Iranian prisoners to be exchanged for the Iraqi prisoners. However, the ICRC mission in Baghdad has told us that it cannot undertake this mission unless it is part of a full plan between the two countries.

In view of the Iranian regime's insistence on freezing the ICRC's activities and keeping our prisoners in Iran without the protection stiplulated under the 1948 Geneva conventions, Iraq was compelled to wait until an acceptable remedy was found for this question, one that would conform to international obligations and the recommendations made by the UN mission. At any rate, we are ready to receive any number of prisoners the Iranian authorities release to the Turkish authorities, without absolving the Iranian regime of its duty to abide by and honor the provisions of the Geneva conventions.

It is understood that Iraq has called a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the UN mission's report and its recommendations on POW's, and also to discuss finding a new, effective mechanism for carrying out those recommendations. We believe that this is the sincere, earnest method for tackling the prisoners' problems and ending their suffering. As for partial solutions, they are no more than a cheap propaganda gambit to dampen world public indignation. This attempt will not deceive anyone. The solution must cover tens of thousands of prisoners, not just scores.

Iraq still believes that it is very essential to discuss this subject in the Security Council, and to find practical solutions that will end all prisoners' suffering.

RCC Grants Immunity to National Assembly Members

JN261700 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 85

[RCC Declaration No 199 issued on 10 February 1985]

[Text] In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph B of Article 66 of the Constitution, at its 10 February 1985 session the RCC unanimously decided the following:

1. Paragraphs B and C of Article 50 of the Constitution will be canceled and replaced by the following Paragraph B: It is impermissible to prosecute or arrest any member of the National Assembly for any crime committed either during or outside the assembly sessions without permission of the RCC chairman, except when caught red-handed.

2. This decision shall be impiemented as of the date it is published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Armed Forces Issue Communique No 1,754

JN261731 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,754 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The armies of justice, the brave sons of Iraq, continue to deal painful blows to the remnants of the defeated enemy, inflicting losses in personnel and equipment. The following are the results for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our forward units used artillery and other weapons to fire on enemy positions, fortifications, and engineering works in the operational sector east of Basra, scoring effective hits, killing or wounding several soldiers, and starting fires in several enemy positions. They also succeeded in destroying four infantry positions and killing their occupants, as well as silencing enemy artillery and mortars in the area of the same sector.

2. Using heavy artillery and mortars, our forward units in the central operational sector shelled several enemy positions, observation posts and troop concentrations, scoring direct hits and inflicting heavy losses in personnel and equipment.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 February 1985

SFRY Foreign Secretary, Delegation Depart

JN260923 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — Raif Dizdarevic, SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs, and his delegation left Baghdad for home today following a 3-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, Dizdarevic held talks with President Saddam Husayn and senior officials on bilateral relations, the situation in the region, the Nonaligned Movement's affairs, and the international situation in general. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, saw the SFRY secretary off.

Trade Minister 'Ali Returns From Muscat

JN260947 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0847 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, returned to Baghdad from Muscat today after

leading the Iraqi side to the meetings of the second session of the Iraqi-Omani committee for economic and technical cooperation, concluded there yesterday. The minister told INA that the committee meetings resulted in signing joint minutes on bilateral cooperation in the economic fields, and increasing the volume of trade exchange and participation in international fairs, in addition to signing an agreement on air services between the two countries.

Iran's Gharazi Escapes Assassination Attempt
JN260934 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0921 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — Reports leaking from Iran say that Iranian Petroleum Minister Gharazi was recently the target of an assassination attempt. Today's issue of *AL-THAWRAH* cites reports that one of Gharazi's guards fired at him but hit a ministry officials instead. Gharazi narrowly escaped death.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Attack Iranian Army Garrisons
GF261150 Baghdad Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Peshmergas of the Mojahedin-e Khalq staged an attack on a military stronghold of the regime in the Baneh region, firing their medium-calibre weapons. They killed a number of Khomeyni's revolutionary guards and antipeople mercenaries. The peshmergas of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, during a surprise attack against one of the regime's military garrisons in the Baneh area, killed another group of Khomeyni's oppressive mercenaries. During these surprise attacks which took place at 1900 on 18 February, the peshmergas of the Mojahedin-e Khalq infiltrated an area close to the Bardeh Rasht garrisons in the Baneh area. They pounded the garrison using rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns. As a result, some of the mercenaries were killed and wounded and three communal and individual bunkers of the regime were destroyed.

Iran Announces Boycott of UN Session on POW's
JN261733 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] New York — The Iranian rulers have announced that they will boycott the UN Security Council meeting which will be held early next month to discuss the report a UN observer team compiled on POW's. This stand was announced by the Iran's permanent UN representative at the news conference held yesterday. He also attacked the Security Council and other UN agencies once again, accusing them of partiality.

Iraq had requested a Security Council meeting to discuss the UN report. The council will hold a closed meeting at a later date to consider the Iraqi request. The Iranian regime's representative strongly attacked the International Committee of the Red Cross, because it revealed the Iranian authorities' bestial crimes agaisnt Iraqi POW's at Gorgan and other camps. He also criticized the UN team that recently visited Iran to investigate the conditions of Iraqi POW's there, accusing the members of this team of painting a tragic picture of the situation of POW camps in Iran.

Husayn Dismisses Call for Visit to Jerusalem

JN260607 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.) — His Majesty King Husayn dismissed an Israeli call for him to visit Jerusalem for peace talks and said he will not visit the Holy City as long as it was under Israeli occupation.

"Jerusalem has a special place in my heart," the king said in a U.S. television interview. "It contains the tomb of my grandfather (King 'Abdullah ibn al-Husayn), who fought for Arab unity, the Great Arab Revolt and for the rights of the Palestinian people."

"I was the last Arab Muslim ruler of the Holy City before its occupation in 1967 and after a 1,000 years of Islamic rule will not give legitimacy to the Israeli annexation of the Holy City by visiting it, as long as it is under the Israeli occupation," the King said.

The king was replying to a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres who said after a visit to Italy last week that he was willing to travel to Amman for peace talks, "I am ready to go to Amman," Mr. Peres had said. "I am sure Israelis would like to see it if King Husayn would come to Jerusalem and announce whatever he has in mind."

In the interview with the U.S. television, the king also reviewed the developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian arena since 1967 when the Israelis occupied the West Bank and Gaza and East Jerusalem.

Referring to the Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the PLO on a formula for joint action to settle the Palestinian problem, the king said the Jordanians and Palestinians "are standing together" and are willing to contribute positively to efforts to solve the Arab-israeli conflict, the crux of which lies is the Palestinian issue.

In another interview with Austrian Television, Monday, King Husayn said there is now a chance that Middle East peace moves could "go in the right direction" but also warned of dire consequences, if the opportunity is lost. "There is a possibility now that this (process) could go in the right direction at long last," king Husayn told Austrian Television. "But at the same time, if the oppertunity is lost, if nothing happens in the month ahead to begin a process in the direction of peace, then I believe the chance might be lost for all times to come, and the disaster that would follow may beset the entire area, maybe the world."

Speaking of the recent Jordan-PLO agreement, the king said: "One of the positive developments recently is that Jordanians and Palestinians are now together, and they are saying 'we are ready to discuss under the auspices of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council all proposals that might lead to a comprehensive peace with Israel'."

The U.S. and Israel have so far ruled out a broad U.N.-Sponsored conference on the issue because that would involve the Soviet Union, which does not recognise Israel diplomatically.

Asked if an Israeli withdrawal from the territories it occupies could bring about a new peace process, King Husayn said:

"If and when the territories are being retrieved, the Palestinians will exercise their inalienable right of self determination, just as the Jordanians will, on the idea of a confederation to exist between us.

"At this time we do not want to publicly discuss any details. Those will be worked out later. However, the idea of confederation is already firmly embedded in the minds and hearts of all."

Al-Masri Discusses PLO Accord, Fahd's U.S. Visit

PM270858 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Feb 85 pp 1-2

[Report on telephone interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Nasr al-Majali — date not given]

[Text] London — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has stated that his country and the PLO are determined to uphold the agreement signed on 11 February, the text of which was announced during a press conference held by the Jordanian acting information minister last Saturday. In a telephone interview with *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, which contacted him from London, the Jordanian minister said: "We are going ahead with the agreement whatever the peripheral reaction because this is an Arab and international demand at this stage of complete deadlock regarding the entire Middle East question."

The Jordanian minister pointed out that the PLO Executive Committee has approved the text of the agreement and that the Jordanian Government is committed to what it has signed and announced; this is because it believes that the agreement will activate the situation. He added that the real action has not started yet.

Referring to the Arab and European attitude, reaction, and extent of support for the agreement, Al-Masri said: "All the Arab states we have contacted support the agreement and see it as the beginning of the road, God willing." Regarding the West European states, their reaction has been quite positive. These states had been urging us, Jordanians and Palestinians, to produce such an agreement and to base it on clear specific foundations "which is what the five articles of the agreement actually are."

He added: "It is quite clear from the statements made by the leaders and officials of some West European states that the agreement is accepted and appreciated. As a result of Jordan's diplomatic contacts with these states, and also of PLO contacts, we now have complete knowledge of Europe's immediate and firm support for the agreement."

Asked about reports that the United States has reservations regarding the agreement and that these reservations have been passed on to Egypt so that it could discuss them with the Jordanian leadership to make the agreement more flexible and acceptable to the United States, Al-Masri said: "We have not

yet entered into a dialogue with Washington on the agreement. It is now between us and the PLO. We are moving jointly at Arab and international levels in this connection. Other stages will follow. The real action has not started yet."

In his interview with *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, the Jordanian foreign minister also said: We have explained to all the Palestinian, Arab, and international parties concerned that the agreement does not mean that Jordan and the PLO will seek a peaceful settlement exclusively, and that the other Arab parties concerned should participate in the peaceful efforts and particularly in the international conference. He added: "The article referring to an international conference clearly mentions participation of all parties concerned in the conference because under no circumstances should there be a separate settlement by any side."

Asked if "participation of Arab parties concerned" meant Syria and Lebanon, he expressed reservations and said "the other Arab parties concerned, and I think that is understood and clear without any side being specified."

In reply to a question about Jordan's reaction to the visit of Saudi King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz' visit to Washington and his talks with U S. President Reagan and other leading members of his administration, the Jordanian foreign minister said: "It was a landmark in U.S.-Arab relations because of the important and decisive part played by Saudi Arabia in the interest of Arab causes; it was alos important because of the depth and strength of U.S.-Saudi relations and the important topics discussed by the Saudi Arab leader and President Reagan in Washington."

He added: God willing, the results of the visit will be positive and fruitful for our cause and in relation to our conflict with Israel. The Saudi monarch concentrated on that cause which he managed to turn into "a top U.S. and international priority."

In reference to the long awaited Arab summit conference and whether Jordan sees bilateral Arab meetings as a significant alternative to Arab summit conferences, the Jordanian minister said: Our position on the question of holding an Arab summit conference is still the same. We strongly call for such a conference. In the past we advocated holding an Arab summit conference but now we insist on it "espeically at this stage which has witnessed numerous crucial developments."

Commenting on reports emanating from Western capitals, especially London, to the effect that certain West European governments have suggested to Jordan that the Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip be represented in the "Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation," Al-Masri said: We have not heard such a thing from European capitals and have received no such suggestions. I want to emphasize here that Jordan still adheres to its firm and declared position that "the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

He stressed that the aim of the agreement signed by the two sides is to liberate the land and reaffirm the Palestinian people's national right to self-determination.

Two days ago Al-Masri met with the Arab and EEC ambassadors, acquainted them with the text of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, and explained the Jordanian views to them. He also heard the views of the countries they represent. He described the meetings as "positive."

Al-Qasim Returns From Morocco, European Tour

JN262020 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Amman — Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, returned to Amman from Morocco this evening after conveying a message from His Majesty King Husayn to Moroccan monarch His Majesty King Hassan II dealing with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement for a joint move to achieve a just, peaceful solution to the Palestine question and end the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. He had conveyed similar messages to French President Francois Mitterrand and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi. He also met with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and the Vatican foreign minister to brief them on the formula and clauses of the agreement. In addition, he toured the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg and met with their foreign ministers. He also met with Delors, the EEC chairman.

Upon returning to Amman, Al-Qasim told PETRA-JNA that during his tour he acquainted officials in the countries he visited with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement that was concluded in Amman on 11 February between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO. He also explained the political and pan-Arab background of the agreement, and its positive principles that will contribute to achieving a just and comprehensive peace for the Palestine question. He said that the agreement is based on the Fes Summit resolutions and the UN resolutions on the Palestine question.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Hits Egyptian Peace Proposals

JN270910 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Feb 85 p 1

[Editorial: "An Opinion of the Recent Egyptian statements"]

[Text] The recent Egyptian statements, if true, about excluding the PLO from the preliminary stages of the search for peace, are inappropriate because they conflict with the spirit of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement which clearly stresses commitment to PLO participation, within the framework of an Arab delegation and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian responsibility, in any stage of the search for peace in the region.

The Egyptian call for preliminary negotiations under U.S. auspices in Washington, is also inappropriate, because the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement frankly stipulates an international canopy and calls for the participation of the UN Security Council permanent member-states and all parties to the Middle East conflict in order to overcome U.S. hegemony over the Middle East peace issue. This will also avoid repetition of past mistakes that have resulted from Israel's ability to exploit U.S. mediation to achieve the Israeli concept of peace; this is based on separating the occupied Arab territories' identity and future

from the Palestinian people's destiny in any political settlement in the Middle East. Although the U.S. role is important, it cannot be separated at this stage, from the Israeli role. This is why seeking a comprehensive international canopy to balance the U.S. bias toward Israel, would constitute a guarantee for peace.

Undoubtedly, with the announcement of the Palestinian- Jordanian agreement a positive stage of Arab political action has begun. The Arabs would do well to study this stage at the highest summit levels, within the framework of the clear and declared concept that was agreed upon, in text and spirit between Jordan and the PLO; this concept is concidered good by international circles and may be the last opportunity for a realistic search for a possible peace process in the Middle East. It is clear from Israel'sreactions that it is seeking alternate interpretations to play down the importance of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement in the international arena. It is also attempting to find, in some Arab interpretations, an opportunity to delude world public opinion on the agreement despite the clarity of its provisions and principles; these principles and provisions seek to save peace prospects and pave the way for an international basis for responsible action that would bring a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East problem closer.

TANJUG: Suicide Brigade Threatens U.S., Israel

LD261929 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1733 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Beirut, February 26 (TANJUG) — The Al-Sadr suicide brigade, the most militant wing of the Lebanese national resistance movement in the occupied south of Lebanon, has threatened to "launch seven suicide actions against U.S. and Israel institutions world-wide in the next twenty-four hours" if the Israeli occupying troops in the south of Lebanon " go on with genocide and extermination of innocent civilians.

In an anonymous telephone call to *AL-SAFIR*, a left-wing Lebanese newspaper, this brigade's command (it claims to already have "more than 3,000 fighting martyrs ready for kamikaze-style actions" issued a threat of carrying its action "onto Israeli soil and ruthlessly annihilating settlements and their inhabitants in the north of Israel as long as the last victim of Israeli crimes has not been avenged."

In meantime, the Israeli occupying troops continue their cruel retaliations against Shi'ite civilians for any successful action by resistance movement guerrillas.

A large-scale famine is hanging over the area in the south of Lebanon kept under an Israeli complete blockade for a week now, Lebanese authorities reported. There is neither electricity nor water there, and hospitals are lacking the badly needed equipment and sanitary supplies since the Israelis are not permitting any supplies to reach the occupied area.

The Lebanese Government has officially requested an "urgent session of the UN Security Council so as to discuss the Lebanese complaints about Israeli acts in the occupied part" of Lebanon.

Officials Seek Support for Security Council Session

NC261623 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry kept up the momentum of its diplomatic offensive today in connection with the Lebanese request for a Security Council meeting to consider its complaint against Israel over continued atrocities by the occupation forces against civilians in south Lebanon.

Ministry Secretary General Fu'ad al-Turk held a lengthy meeting today with the Director of Political Affairs, Khalil Makkawi, and the Director of International Organizational Affairs, Ghazi Shidyaq, to review the situation in the south and discuss diplomatic moves designed to mobilize support for the Lebanese complaint within the Security Council. A decision was reached to summon the representatives of permanent Security Council members to the Foreign Ministry as of this afternoon to officially notify them of the Lebanese complaint and to request the support of their countries for the demand of Lebanon that Israel put an end to its arbitrary practices in the south.

The secretary general met in the presence of Makkawi and Shidyaq this afternoon with the representatives of the Soviet Union, Britain, the United States, France, and China to consider the Israeli practices in the south. Lebanon was asking the five permanent Security Council members to support its complaint against Israel.

Earlier today, Al-Turk conferred with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rashid Karami on the diplomatic moves undertaken by Lebanon to mobilize support for its position at the United Nations. The Foreign Ministry was in contact during the day with the permanent delegate of Lebanon to the United Nations, Rashid Fakhuri. Diplomatic sources indicated that the Security Council could meet Wednesday night to consider the Lebanese complaint.

Meanwhile, Shidyaq met with the Middle East regional director of UNRWA to discuss the plight of Palestinian refugees in the south. Shidyaq also met with the delegation of the International Red Cross in Lebanon to discuss ways in which the Red Cross could help the people expelled from their homes in the south.

Soviet Ambassador Expresses Support

NC261805 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Consultations are taking place at the United Nations concerning the Lebanese complaint about what some villages in the south and in western Al-Biqa' are suffering at the hands of the Israeli forces. The overall impression is that the UN Security Council will convene tomorrow to examine this complaint.

At 1600 today, Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, Lebanese Foreign Ministry Secretary General, began a series of meetings with the USSR, UK, the U.S., and PRC ambassadors. Al-Turk urged them to support the Lebanese request and to back the UN resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, particularly Resolutions 508 and 509.

[USSR Ambassador] Soldatov made it clear that the Soviet Union supports Lebanon in its call for a UN Security Council session. Asked whether he expects the council to condemn Israel, Soldatov said: If the council had been performing its duties correctly, we believe that it should have made such a decision and called on Israel to withdraw unconditionally.

Regarding the Soviet reaction to Lebanon's request for unconditional Israeli withdrawal, Soldatov said: Look at the countries neghboring Lebanon and you will understand.

He added: In the spring of 1983, the Soviet Union strengthened Syrian defense to such an extent that would make Israel understand that it should discontinue its aggressive policy. These measures had an immediate impact on what is happening.

Asked whether there is a Soviet offer to strengthen Lebanese defenses, Soldatov said: Of course.

Asked if he was referring to missile and air defenses, he replied: All sorts of defenses.

The UK and PRC ambassadors did not comment, and the meeting with the U.S. ambassador is still in progress.

Saudi Envoy Meets Al-Jumayyil, Conveys Message

NC261517 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil today held a private meeting with Saudi envoy Rafiq al-Hariri. After the meeting, Al-Hariri said that he had conveyed to President al-Jumayyil a verbal message from Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The message dealt with King Fahd's visit to the United States and his meeting there with President Reagan, during which they discussed the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East crisis.

It is also known that Al-Hariri told President al-Jumayyil that Saudi Arabia is doing its utmost to help Lebanon in every way and supports its efforts to rid the land of Zionist occupation.

Birri Meets With South Korean Ambassador

NC261627 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The minister of state for southern Lebanon, Nabih Birri, discussed conditions in south Lebanon during a meeting today with the ambassador of South Korea. The Korean diplomat later described the situation in areas under Israeli occupation as explosive and he urged Israel to announce a timetable for its withdrawal.

At noon Minister Birri received a telephone call from Prime Minister Karami. The two men discussed a wide-range of public affairs, including the Cabinet meeting tomorrow. He discussed the same subject in a telephone conversation with Education Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

Jordan Reportedly To End Junblatt's Residence

NC261816 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut said that Jordanian authorities have asked Minister Walid Junblatt to move his residence and family out of Amman. These authorities did not give any explanation for their decision. As a result, Minister Junblatt requested an urgent meeting with King Husayn, but the court turned down his request.

Phalangist Delegation's Damascus Visit Appraised

NC261055 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The meeting of the Lebanese Front has ended. Phalangist Party leader Dr Elie Karamah has stated that at its meeting today the front discussed the various aspects of the Phalangist delegation's visit to Damascus of interest to the front, particularly the anxiety of Christians in the south over fanatic actions and the movements of the Palestinian organizations.

The Phalangist leader added: The front expressed satisfaction over the results of this visit after I reviewed in detail the results of the meetings, contacts, and talks. The most important of these results is the change in relationship and the reestablishment of cordial and useful relations with Damascus. We noted the following three importa nt stands:

1. At the security level we noted a Syrian desire to bolster security measures so as to consolidate security and stability in all Lebanese territories. We also noted a clear desire to speed up the political measures for finding the solutions.

2. The previous contacts with the Syrians and the Syrian regime used to be conducted from one side and by one channel only. We found in Damascus that information reaching the Syrians, particularly on the security plans, was not completely in line with the facts. Hence, I found that contacts from our side were necessary and should continue, to rectify the Syrian officials' picture of security information and of all the parties' stands, particularly the Christian side.

3. We noted the support of the Syrian regime and officials to the legitimate authority and to the president of the republic. We also noted the will to find a real balance among all the Lebanese sides in Lebanon and the Syrian regime's will to maintain a balanced attitude toward all the Lebanese sides.

Dr Karamah added: This is considered a reassuring stand with regard to the Syrian officials' stands on the Lebanese issue and the probelms we are facing. This is auspicious and will help the Lebanese find solutions within the framework of the Lebanese legitimate authority.

We, in turn, noted that some Lebanese sides were annoyed over the visit, as shown by some of their statements and stands and the relative exacerbation in the security situation, particularly in Iqlim al-Kharrub, while we were in Syria. We are confident that this exacerbation will not go beyond certain limits because of the Syrian stand.

AL-SIYASAH Reveals Plan for Union With Syria

GF261830 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 25 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Beirut — *AL-SIYASAH* has learned that a plan for a confederation of Syria and Lebanon is being studied far from the spotlight in both Damascus and Beirut. Reports say that the plan will be publicly discussed following the complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in the summer. The plan was discussed by President Hafiz al-Asad and President Amin al-Jumayyil during the latter's visit to Damascus last week. It appears that the plan is also being discussed by the Phalangist delegation during its current visit to Damascus.

AL-SIYASAH has also learned that President al-Jumayyil is sounding the views of the Christian forces in Lebanon on the possibility of achieving such a union, or at least on the conclusion of a security, political, and economic agreement between Lebanon and Syria that will contribute toward resolving all outstanding problems and consolidating the Chritstians over the leadership of the Lebanese regime. It appears that the only obstacle to the plan is the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist Party. President al-Jumayyil, however, has expressed his readiness to overcome this obstacle and insure the implementa-

tion of the plan. The political bureau of the Liberal Party, led by Camille Sham'un, discussed the plan very secretly and decided to wait and withhold its views on the plan and refrain from discussing it with President al-Jumayyil until political circles began to talk about unity openly. This explains Sham'un's recent reclusion and his absence from Cabinet meetings.

Finnish, Israeli Forces Exchange Blows in South

NC261846 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] At 0730 today, occupation forces surrounded the town of Srifa with three infantry units. Some 30 minutes later, 24 armored cars and bulldozers entered the town and began opening indiscriminate gunfire in all directions. At 0900, these forces were able to control the town. They rounded up the inhabitants at the town's school and began investigating them.

Timor Goksel, official spokesman for UNIFIL in the south, said that the Israeli forces tried to burn the house of a citizen, but the Finnish forces, in whose operational area the town is located, confronted them. A fistfight ensued between the Israelis and the Finnish soldiers.

Goksel added that the siege is continuing and that the Israeli forces are banning entry to and exit from the town, even for ambulances and Red Cross vehicles.

Curfew Imposed on Villages South of Al-Litani

NC261240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The Israeli occupation army today decided to impose a curfew on the Lebanese villages located south of the Al-Litani River and to subject the people to a rigorous regime in behavior and movement. Israeli helicopers dropped leaflets in the Tyre area, south of the Al-Litani River, this morning bearing the signature of the Israeli Army. The leaflets impose a daily curfew on the people from sunset to sunrise. The leaflets are dated 18 [as heard] February 1985, the date of completion of the first phase of the withdrawal. They were dropped this morning and are addressed to the citizens south of the Al-Litani River.

The leaflet reads that any citizen living south of the Al-Litani River is prohibited from driving alone and must have a passenger with him. This is the text of the statement and instructions with which the citizens must comply:

To the citizens south of the Al-Litiani River: Behavioral instructions in the area south of the Al-Litani as of Monday, 18 February 1985. The following instructions shall go into effect:

1. A daily curfew will be imposed from sunset to sunrise.
2. During the curfew hours, movement by car or on foot outside the village or city is prohibited.
3. Riding motorbikes is strictly forbidden in daytime or at night.
4. It is forbidden to drive a car alone; a driver must have at least one passenger.
5. Any car parked on the side of a road will be blown up if its owner is not standing nearby.

Anyone who contravenes these instructions will endanger his life.

Signed: The Israeli Defense Army.

Israeli Patrol Tries To Penetrate Army Roadblock

NC261530 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] This morning an Israeli patrol tried to penetrate a roadblock manned by the Lebanese Army 300 meters from the Israeli frontline. The Lebanese Army unit manning the roadblock forced the Israeli patrol to withdraw.

Occupation forces closed the Al-Nabatiyah-Sidon highway for cars in which the driver did not have other passengers. Two crossings at Al-Qasimiyah and other points were closed, but some crossings were opened for people with special permits.

Israelis Dismantle Al-Qasimiyah Bridge

NC262225 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] We received reports a short while ago indicating that the Israeli forces began dismantling the Al-Qasimiyah iron bridge at 2000 today. Our correspondent said that the removal of this bridge would cut traffic on the southern coastal line between Sidon and Tyre.

Al-Shar' Complains of 'Brutal' Israeli Actions

JN261819 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] We have just received the following:

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' summoned the ambassadors of the permanent members of the Security Council this evening to inform them of the Syrian Government's deep concern over the brutal actions that the Israeli occupation forces are taking against civilians and villages in southern Lebanon. The minister also explained to the ambassadors that these brutal Israeli practices are aimed at increasing tension and pushing the situation in the region toward an explosion.

He also stressed that the Syrian Government strongly condemns these brutal actions and the goals that the Israelis are trying to achieve. Syria particularly draws the attention of the world public opinion and the governments of the five states to the dangers of such continued Israeli practices, especially since the Lebanese people are determined to resist the Israeli occupation and since Syria firmly supports them to enable them to exercise their legitimate rights of defending themselves and liberating their country from the Israeli invaders. We will not leave our Lebanese brothers to confront this serious situation alone.

He also asked the governments of the five states to condemn these Israeli practices and take appropriate measures to end them, in accordance with the Geneva conventions and the UN Charter, and in implementation of the Security Council resolutions that call for an immediate withdrawal of the Israeli invasion forces from all Lebanese territories.

Damascus Views Attempts To Undermine PLO

JN261243 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Zionist leadership has praised the efforts of the Egyptian regime's president and welcomed his call for not including the PLO in any Middle East negotiations. In the meantime, Israel rejected the Amman agreement in the same manner as did the United States, because the concessions contained in it do not satisfy all of Israel's wishes and because it does not refer to the Camp David accords specifically as the sole basis for negotiations.

What is strange is that some leaders in the 'Arafatist clique rejected the Amman agreement as announced by the Jordanian regime. However, these leaders did not reject the Egyptian president's initiative, considered an amendment of the Amman agreement and more responsive to the Israeli wishes and the Camp David accords and their capitulatory contents.

Thus, the Amman agreement was not the end of the 'Arafatist concessions, but the basis on which the proposals and amendments that make this agreement acceptable to both Israel and the United States can be based. What draws attention in this respect is that 'Arafat's followers are skilled in maneuvering and deception. At a time when they complain of Jordanian hegemony over them, we see them seeking the help of the Egyptian regime, although they are convinced that the Cairo rulers are in alliance with the Amman ruler and that the ties linking them to Israel are stronger than any ties between them and the Arab nation.

Although the Egyptian rulers agree with the United States on plans aimed at encircling and robbing the PLO of its international status if 'Arafat is dismissed or isolated, we do not think that this agreement sidesteps Amman, which preoccupied itself with all that can help it attain the objective it shares jointly with the United States and Israel — wrenching the PLO's representation and replacing it with Palestinian figures chosen by the Jordanian regime.

In this regard, we must remind the grumblers in the 'Arafatist leadership of their attitude toward 'Arafat's visit to the Camp David regime, of what they considered a victory for independent Palestinian decisionmaking in the Amman Council, and of their loud applause for the king's slogan of land in exchange for peace.

The game 'Arafat began by dispersing Palestinian fighters in desert exile is the same game which produced the Amman agreement, as well as the game which made the Palestinian people realize the ultimate end of the 'Arafatist plot, especially since 'Arafat's agreements with U.S. envoy Philip Habib were only complementary parts of this plot. We do not doubt that all that has happened and all the subsequent concessions that rob the Palestinian people of their pan-Arab entity and militant cause have really affected the PLO as a pan-Arab revolutionary movement.

However, we suspect the ability of those playing with the U.S.-reactionary fire to subjugate the Palestinian people and wrench the rifle from their hands, not only because 'Arafat's plans are rejected, but also because every Palestinian has begun to review his claculations following the series of defeats which struck Israel in southern Lebanon.

We are not boasting when we say that the advocates of the Amman agreement and all those playing with words in the 'Arafatist leadership realize that Syria has sworn loyalty to Palestine and that the United States itself is convinced that no solution or agreement not accepted by Syria can be stronger than the 17 May agreement, bearing in mind the difference in time which has become an Arab time, although the reactionaries and renegades are trying to turn it into an Israeli time to entrench their existence under a U.S.-Zionist protection.

If Usamah al-Baz' shuttle between Cairo and Tel Aviv, and then between Cairo and Amman, has given some reassurance to the renegades or faint-hearted in the 'Arafatist leadership, we are not afraid to say that Camp David will not break out of its isolation. The group of renegades will not be able to generalize it, because the logic of the Arab nation's civilization is determined by only two things: The right to defend existence and destiny and the bullet that can secure this right — a bullet that has proven its ability to wrench victory in the south after defeating the United States in Lebanon. This bullet has become the Arab's hope for liberation and victory.

Damascus on Mubarak's Political Moves, Statements

JN261959 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo — REUTER has quoted a spokesman for the Egyptian Government as saying that a special envoy of Egyptian regime President Husni Mubarak is currently visiting occupied Palestine to hold talks with Zionist entity Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on the situation in the Middle East. The spokesman declined to identify the envoy, saying that all he knows is that an Egyptian envoy is in Israel.

It is noteworthy that Mubarak announced yesterday that he would send his political adviser Usamah al-Baz to meet with Peres. Also, the Zionist minister of energy is in Cairo. Following a meeting with his counterpart in the Egyptian regime, he stated that his entity's relations with this regime are very good and cordial.

In the enemy's entity, informed Israeli sources today welcomed Egyptian regime President Husni Mubarak's proposal for holding direct negotiations between Israel and King Husayn's delegation, comprising some Palestinians. The enemy radio has quoted these sources as saying that Israel has no objections to Palestinian representatives from the West Bank participating in negotiations with it. The sources also said that President Mubarak has taken into consideration Israel's objections to this issue, a fact that indicates that Mubarak is trying to discuss all ways of pushing the Camp David negotiations forward. The Jordanian regime also stressed its adherence to the policy of capitulation and negotiation with the Zionist enemy on the basis of the recent Husayn-'Arafat agreement, despite all the Arab and Palestinian condemnation of that agreement and the statements on the need to foil it. Jordanian regime Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has told *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* paper today that his regime is determined to implement the agreement, regardless of all the reaction against it. He claims that this constitutes a move to solve the Middle East problem.

Shamir Interviewed by LE MONDE, West German TV

Lebanese Situation, Unity Government

PM271012 Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Feb 85 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Jacques Amalric; date and place not given]

[Text] **[Amalric]** The Israeli Cabinet has just met, in particular to examine the possibility of speeding up the withdrawal of your Army from southern Lebanon. What is your view?
[Shamir] I have just received a report of that meeting. The situation in Lebanon was discussed, but not the possibility of speeding up the withdrawal of our troops. Our government has already decided to carry out this withdrawal in three stages, and that timetable cannot be changed every day, even if the development of the situation should be examined daily. Our Army is now taking very vigorous steps to protect our soldiers' lives and to end the terrorist attacks. It is difficult to understand the attitude of the terrorists who are attacking our soldiers while they are withdrawing. We are absolutely determined to teach them that Israel will put an end to their activities by every possible means, including means we have hitherto not used. People in Lebanon and throughout the Near East must realize that Israel has decided to withdraw not out of weakness but because our military presence has become unnecessary. All those who try to exploit this situation will be severely punished. Our Army will also take all the necessary steps to protect our citizens in the north of the country. Although there are disagreements within the Cabinet on whether or not the time is right for withdrawing from Lebanon, there was unanimity on the absolute necessity to protect the cities and villages of Galilee.

[Amalric] When you say that you will use methods which have not yet been used, to what are you referring?
[Shamir] I am thinking of the proclamation of a curfew in the terrorists' home villages, and searches on a bigger scale to seek out the terrorists. We have no intention of having bad relations with the population, but if acts of terrorism are committed against our soldiers, we must react.

[Amalric] Are you thinking primarily of the Shi'ites?
[Shamir] Whether the terrorists are Shi'ites or Palestinians is unimportant. It does not matter whether bullets or mines are used...

[Amalric] What if the Syrians try to seize control of the remaining pro-'Arafat Palestinian camps after your withdrawal?
[Shamir] We will not interfere. What interests us is the security of our border.

[Amalric] Do you think the role and size of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] should be increased?
[Shamir] An attempt has been made to use UNIFIL, but the precondition for using it more is a request from the Lebanese Government to the United Nations. However, that government was unwilling to make such a request because of Syrian opposition. Syria's position is unequivocal — in Damascus' view we should withdraw without making any arrangements for our security.

[Amalric] In these conditions, how do you reconcile what you call your need for guarantees on the security of northern Israel with your withdrawal? The zone held by General Lahd will not succeed in preventing shelling...
[Shamir] This is true to some extent. But we will take other steps against the shelling, but for obvious reasons I cannot say what they will be.

[Amalric] But there can no longer be any guarantees on Israel's security. Surely it all boils down to a balance of forces?
[Shamir] Solutions must be found. This is the weak element of this whole operation, and this is why there were disagreements within our government. But the majority decided to carry out the withdrawal despite the lack of guarantees; we must therefore now seek solutions. I have a great deal of confidence in our Army's ability to find a solution. We would have preferred an agreement with the Lebanese, but since there is no agreement, we will have to make unilateral decisions.

A Syrian Tool

[Amalric] Do you now think that the invasion of Lebanon was a mistake?
[Shamir] No, I think there was no other solution, although it was clear after 4 months, in other words after the expulsion of the PLO from Lebanon, that our presence was no longer necessary. But guarantees were sought to ensure that such a situation did not arise again. Hence the 17 May 1983 agreement with Lebanon, about which, moreover, I was not enthusiastic. But Syria's opposition made it impossible to implement that agreement.

[Amalric] Were you surprised by President al-Jumayyil's anti-Israeli statements in Sidon?
[Shamir] No, because that man is now very weak; he is no longer leading his country. He is a tool in the Syrians' hands.

[Amalric] What is your assessment of your cohabitation with the Labor Party after 5 months of national unity government?
[Shamir] It is too soon to make a judgment, but despite the problems, the government is still functioning and has taken fairly important decisions both on the economy and on Lebanon. Of course, there are still problems, but we have no ideological differences on these two questions — the economy and Lebanon. With regard to other questions, we must wait and see. I think — but this is a personal impression — that there will be no disagreements which could bring down the coalition for a fairly long time.

[Amalric] Do you see Mr Begin often?
[Shamir] Not very often, but I talk to him fairly frequently on the telephone. I saw him a week ago, and my colleagues see him. He takes an interest in everything, reads everything, knows everything, and expresses his views to his friends. He may very well decide to return to politics one day. He is entitled to do so.

The Principles of an Agreement

[Amalric] Do you think you made a good political deal when you formed this government?
[Shamir] I think it was a national necessity. The election result made it essential because it is impossible to govern with a

majority of one. There were also the economic problems and the Lebanon problem. Whether or not it serves a particular party is less important.

[Amalric] When you hear [Prime Minister] Shim'on Peres say he wants to go to Amman, what do you feel?
[Shamir] We know all the preconditions set for such a meeting. They were laid down in our government agreement. It is understood that, if King Husayn says he is ready to negotiate with us, we will receive him and start talks with him without preconditions. And we will listen to his proposals, and then decide on our answer, jointly with the Labor Party. I personally think that the proposals we will then make to King Husayn will be based on the Camp David agreements. The whole government, and not just myself, thinks that these Camp David agreements are the most realistic peace plan insofar as they make provision for Jordan's role in the peace process, and the Palestinian Arabs' role...

We also agree with Shim'on Peres on not negotiating with the PLO and not accepting a Palestinian state. We also agree that there should be no territorial change in our country during the government's term of office.

[Amalric] Are you thinking of the West Bank?
[Shamir] Yes. It means that, if there is a disagreement on this subject one day, the government will no longer be able to function. But this is not the case at present. For the time being we have a broad area of agreement.

[Amalric] What is the position on the settlements?
[Shamir] The general principles accepted by the two sides make provision for the maintenance and development of the villages — I do not like the word settlements — which were created by the previous government. All the decisions on these problems made by the previous government remain valid; but the present government controls the timetable, aside from the obligation to create six new villages in its first year in office. And we are going to do that...

[Amalric] What do you think of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement signed in Amman?
[Shamir] We do not think this agreement has much importance with regard to the problem which exists between us and Jordan. After all, it is an agreement between Jordan and the PLO. Israel's name is not even mentioned in this document. There is no talk of peace negotiations with Israel; there is merely talk of an international conference because they want to avoid direct contacts with Israel. It is, therefore, not a contribution to peace — the main aim is to persuade the United States to establish contacts with the PLO and to exert pressure on Israel to make us withdraw from Judea, Samaria, and Jerusalem. The aim of all this effort is not peace. It is to make us leave those territories. They will then try to reach agreement on who will control those territories. It is important not to forget that the PLO is prepared to take control of every bit of land which is, as they say, "liberated" by Israel and to continue the struggle against us. That cannot be called peace.

[Amalric] The document signed in Amman talks of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation...
[Shamir] Confederation is a play on words, since this document talks of a Palestinian state and a Jordanian state. If the two states agree, there will be a confederation. This is of fairly minor importance to us. We know the worth of federations and confederations in the Arab world. They are just words...

[Amalric] Do you expect a U.S. diplomatic offensive in the region?
[Shamir] Of course, the United States is examining the situation; it wants peace in the region, but is very cautious about adopting a clear and plain position. In any event I hope it will not take a decision without informing us.

Agricultural Exports

[Amalric] Let us turn to the specific aim of your visit. You particularly want to discuss in Paris, then in Bonn and The Hague, the effect on Israel of Spain and Portugal joining the Common Market.
[Shamir] Yes, I am going to concentrate especially on the repercussions which the entry of these countries will have on our agricultural exports to the community. We export 50 percent of our agricultural production, in other words, products worth around $500 million; two-thirds of those exports now go to the Common Market. Very big sums of money are involved. But there is also a serious social problem, since a large number of our farmers depend on the continuation of these exports for their existence. We must therefore find a way of continuing our agricultural exports after Spain joins, because this country produces the same goods as we do. We do have a free trade agreement with the Common Market at present, but it only relates to industrial products. On the other hand we only have limited agreements for agricultural products. That is why we must now negotiate a system with the community which enables us to maintain our agricultural exports to Europe at their present level. It should not be forgotten that our trade with the community is on a very large scale, and that there is a balance of trade deficit of $1.8 billion to our detriment. This deficit would be even bigger if we did not have our sales of agricultural products. This is why I hope that France will help us solve this very serious and very important problem.

FRG Relations, Weapons Problems

DW271041 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 2045 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir by correspondent Helmut Illert in the "Heute-Journal" program in Bonn; in English with German translation superimposed -- recorded]

[Text] **[Illert]** Minister Shamir, one of the difficulties in the relations between your country and the FRG is the problem of German arms exports to the Middle East. Could you achieve some flexibility in the standpoints of your talks in Bonn now?
[Shamir] Well, our position in this regard is very clear. We are most decisively against any German arms sales to Arab countries in the Middle East. We believe that the German people and the FRG do not have to sell arms, provide arms, to Arab countries, knowing that these arms will be used against the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

[Illert] Do you think that the attitude of your government could be a bit more flexible here if, for example, Saudi Arabia accepted Israel's right to exist?
[Shamir] I do not think it is going to happen. I also do not think that something will change in this respect. We think that all arms supplied to Arab states in this region will be accepted with the intention to use them in a war against Israel.

[Illert] Nowadays, several political initiatives are being launched with the intention of achieving a peaceful solution in the Middle East. How do you assess the chances of the organization and the success of a conference with the participation of Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian representatives?
[Shamir] As is known, it was always Israel's aim to achieve peace with our Arab neighbors. We have accepted and we have agreed to the Camp David agreement. It was the aim to conclude peace between Israel and Egypt. This peace is to be a cornerstone for peaceful relations with all Arab states of our region. In this framework, we agreed that Israel someday should sit down at a table with Jordan, and maybe even with Palestinians. The Palestinians should be members of the Egyptian or the Jordanian delegation, although under one condition — these Palestinian Arabs must not be members of the PLO.

Shamir Holds Talks on Mideast, EC, Arms in FRG

For reportage on the visit to the Federal Republic of Germany by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, including his talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and President Richard von Weizsaecker, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 27 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

Coverage of Reaction to Mubarak Peace Initiative

Bethlehem Mayor on Initiative

TA261009 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Feb 85 p 2

[Interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar; date and place not given]

[Text] **[Eldar]** President Mubarak is ready for direct negotiations with Israel without the PLO. Are you prepared to support this?
[Frayj] I very much respect President Mubarak and believe in Egypt's political course. I am in favor of face-to-face talks between Arab and Israeli delegations. A Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has to agree to negotiations on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242, with the full participation of the United States and Egypt.

[Eldar] You are familiar with Israeli politics. Do you have any basis to believe that Prime Minister Peres can pass such an initiative in the Cabinet?
[Frayj] I very much admire Peres for his wisdom, courage, and his political energy in dealing with difficult situations. His term holds good prospects for talks with Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians. We do not accept the occupation. I am in favor of secure borders and normalization under which a Jewish child and Arab child can walk hand-in-hand.

[Eldar] Are you ready, for this reason, to risk participating in a delegation of the residents of the territories without the PLO for peace negotiations?
[Frayj] It would be stupid of me to tell you yes or no. I am a Palestinian, and my roots are here. But coordination must be achieved between te Palestinians and the Jordanians regarding the composition of the delegation. Coordination between Egypt and Jordan will also be useful.

[Eldar] If it is decided to send you to the talks, aren't you afraid that you will meet the same fate as that of Sartawi and Al-Qawasimah?
[Frayj] I am not afraid physically. It is not important whether I will die today or tomorrow. I am the only Arab leader who has been consistent in his views over the past 15 years.

[Eldar] In Israel we ask: Who is a Jew. Have you decided who is a Palestinian? Is only a PLO member a Palestinian?
[Frayj] Various governments in the world have not rejected the joint PLO-Jordanian statement. There is a consensus and support in the West Bank for the Jordanian-PLO statement concerning direct talks. With mediators we will get nowhere.

West Bank Reactions

TA261243 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] We are still discussing Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative, the initiative for a new peace process in the Middle East. Well, here in Jerusalem we are still waiting; it is not certain whether an envoy from the Egyptian president will come or not, but there are many reactions. First, to the territories; the reactions there to the Egyptian president's initiative are mixed. Leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, known for their support for Jordan, favor the initiative by the Egyptian president, while leaders identified with the rejectionist front regard the initiative as an attempt to revive the Camp David agreements and they, of course, reject it completely. Our correspondent Arye Salman has been following these reactions and he has this report:

[Begin recording] [Salman] The reactions in the territories to President Mubarak's initiative are mixed. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj supports the proposal, which will lead the sides to the discussion table. This is a continuation of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement, Frayj said, and the PLO will authorize its members to negotiate with Israel in the joint delegation.

[Frayj — in English] I suppose the Jordanian-Palestinians join the delegation and this delegation to be chosen by the Jordanians and the Palestinian leadership. If any Palestinian undertakes on his own self to say, look, I want to negotiate, he will get nowhere and I do not believe that President Mubarak wants in anyway to defy the PLO. President Mubarak, in his initiative, he really supports the PLO.

[Salman — translates above and continues] Former Nabulus Mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah, who is identified with the PLO's rejectionist front, reacted by noting that this is an attempt to revive the Camp David agreements, an attempt that will not succeed. Hanna Sanyurah, the editor of the paper *AL-FAJR*

which supports 'Arafat, said firmly: No progress will be achieved without the PLO's incorporation in the negotiations.

[Sanyurah — in English] The peace process can proceed forward with the participation of the PLO. Without the participation of the PLO, no peace process will proceed further. The PLO will choose whoever they wish. If they want to choose people from the West Bank and the occupied territories, it's their prerogative. If they want to appoint people from the PLO itself or from outside the territories, it is the full choice of the PLO. The participation of the PLO in any joint delegation is essential. [end recording]

Alignment MK's Welcome Initiative

TA261630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Ten Alignment Knesset members [MK's] issued an announcement welcoming the Egyptian president's peace initiative. In a letter to the prime minister, the MK's stated that Mubarak's proposal is compatible with the principles of the Camp David accords and may thaw the freeze in the Middle East. They called on Shim'on Peres to respond to the Egyptian president's proposal and called for a party debate on it. The ten MK's are: Ora Namir, 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, Menahem Hakohen, Shevah Weiss, Aharon Nahmias, Nava Arad, Jacques Amir, Hayim Ramon, 'Adi'el Amoray, and Aharon Har'el.

Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli notes that MK Shulamit Aloni also called on the prime minister to give Mubarak a positive answer, even if figures associated with the PLO are part of the Palestinian delegation.

Inner Cabinet to Discuss Initiative

TA262016 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Optimism was expressed in Jerusalem this evening over the Mubarak initiative. Government sources believe the Egyptian plan should be dealt with very seriously. An initial debate about Mubarak's initiative and its implications will be held during an inner cabinet meeting on Thursday. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen sums up the moods prevailing in Jerusalem

Ever since he assumed office, Shim'on Peres has been constantly sending messages to President Mubarak, the gist of them being that we should proceed quickly to break the political deadlock. Some regard Mubarak's initiative as a revolutionary move and an important breakthrough. Some think that even if it is designed to improve Egypt's image in Washington, it will at least improve Israeli-Egyptian relations or, perhaps, even lead to a bigger move such as an Israeli-Jordanian-Egyptian peace conference.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office believe Israel should not let up on the Egyptian initiative and that this initiative should be encouraged in every possible way.

The prime minister, Minister Weizman, and Director General of the Prime Minister's Office Avraham Tamir heard the first draft of the plan in Bucharest last week. Since then, several clarifications have arrived from Cairo. However, several points remain obscure, the main one being: Did Husayn know and approve of the Egyptian plan which, among other things, implies negotiations without the PLO?

Another important question that remains unanswered is: Will Yasir 'Arafat agree to the Egyptian move? Partial replies may be supplied by the envoy scheduled to arrive from Cairo and other points may be elucidated in the meeting between Minister Moshe Shahal and President Mubarak scheduled to be held in Cairo tomorrow.

Meanwhile, contacts also continue through the offices of the United States. Ambassador Lewis conferred with the prime minister last night and was asked to convey several messages to Washington and Cairo.

Several Alignment ministers today noted that the disintegration of the national unity government is not too heavy a price to pay in exchange for an arrangement with Jordan. The Likud ministers reacted cautiously. Minister Moda'i said this is an important move and not just a public relations ruse. Other ministers cautioned that Israel should not, under any circumstances whatsoever, give up on Judaea and Samaria — and Minister Yosef Shapira [of Morasha] also subscribed to this view. Minister David Levi said he would voice his opinion only after he has heard what the prime minister has to say in the meeting of the inner cabinet on Thursday.

Weizman Does Not Rule Out PLO

TA262037 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman has welcomed President Mubarak's initiative and has said there are good chances that this initiative will bear fruit. In a talk with our correspondent Menashe Raz, Minister Weizman abstained from categorically rejecting the possibility that PLO representatives might take part in the negotiations.

[Begin videotape] [Raz] Mr Weizman, do you expect President Mubarak's initiative to bear results as well?

[Weizman] I think so. This is not only his initiative; an initiative cannot be one-sided, it calls for two partners. In my opinion, the situation should be analyzed, as follows: Does the government headed by Mr Shim'on Peres stand a better chance of sitting down and trying to establish a dialogue? This is the reason why what you call an initiative came at this time.

[Raz] In other words, you do not consider it a public relations ruse.

[Weizman] I think the time has come for us to stop labeling world leaders perpetrators of public relations tricks. True, people think about the fact that he is scheduled to visit the United States — but he is also scheduled to return from there. I would not suggest that we regard this as a trick, but I would very sincerely recommend that we see it as a link in a long chain which began in the

late 1970's through the initiative of Al-Sadat and Begin to start a peace process in the Middle East.

[Raz] Might we not refuse to take part in the talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that includes figures we associate with the PLO?

[Weizman] I would recommend, both to you and to many people in Israel, to try not to reject everything. Let us put off the rejection of all the things you now think of rejecting until the proper time and then voice our rejection. All those things we can accept, let us accept them gladly.

[Raz] Please correct me if I am wrong, but it seems to me that you do not categorically reject figures associated with the PLO.

[Weizman] As a rule, I like to say yes more than I like to say no; it is usually easier to say no. [end videotape]

Correspondents Discuss Talks With Mubarak Envoy

TA270542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Studio talk between anchorman Yitzhaq Ro'e and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — live]

[Text] [Ro'e] The first meeting with the Egyptian President's personal envoy, Dr Usamah al-Baz, was held late last night, shrouded in some secrecy. First it was a private tete-a-tete between Peres and Al-Baz, and later Ministers Rabin, Weizman, and Arens joined. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is in the studio having spent the night in the bitter cold at the entrance to the prime minister's official residence. Finally, the envoy emerged, but was not identified with certainty.

[Schiffer] Official sources are still refusing to confirm that the envoy is really Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's senior adviser, but as we determined even last night, we could say that Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's senior adviser, arrived in Israel by car, through Rafah, and conferred last night with the prime minister and immediately after with a group of ministers for a very long meeting that ended at 0130.

[Ro'e] And all the time the man's identity was concealed, correct?

[Schiffer] Successfully so. When we were standing there next to the prime minister's residence, we were unable to see the man or identify him. The time was, as I said, 0130, when a side gate in the wall surrounding the prime minister's residence opened, and with a push and a brutal shove to the photographers a few secret servicemen emerged running. Immediately after this a Ford Escort passed, driven by a well-known security figure. Then, in a Renault 18, we could observe, in the rear of the car, three men sitting huddled. Before that we could catch a glimpse of Prime Minister's Shim'on Peres showing the guest the way out of the building, that is, not through the main door.

It may be worthwhile mentioning at this point that usually the security men are extremely courteous in their treatment of the media, but this time they were apparently instructed to make every effort to shield the guest. Thus, too, when the prime minister's media adviser, Uri Savir, approached us, his announcement was laconic and enigmatic:

[Begin Savir recording] Good morning, last night a meeting was held here between the prime minister, and Ministers Rabin, Arens, and Weizman, and a personal envoy on behalf of Egyptian President Mubarak. These talks will continue tomorrow, and an announcement will only be issued tomorrow at the conclusion of the talks. I have nothing more to add. [end recording]

[Ro'e] But why this veil of secrecy? There appears to be an Egyptian version, due to the sensitivity of the issue, but there also appears to be yet another version, because they are not supposed to visit Jerusalem?

[Schiffer] The Egyptians made the arrival of the envoy, Dr Usamah al-Baz, conditional upon the absence of publicity for the event and a ban on photographing the man. They explained this as resulting from the fact that they are embroiled in the midst of a Palestinian-Jordanian process, and they are currently dispatching envoys to Husayn, too, in a bid to persuade him to join Mubarak's initiative. That is why they asked that when the envoy is in Israel, he should not be seen or identified.

Other explanations were also offered, or heard. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has recently announced that in the future no official [Egytian] envoy would visit Jerusalem, but it should be said that when one wants to strike a deal, they come even to Jerusalem. And as we have seen, the meeting did indeed take place in Jerusalem.

[Ro'e] As we have just reported, the meeting took place in the prime minister's residence. But now to the substance of things. Beyond the darkness, the cold, and the secrecy — what do we know about the business that was discussed, and to what extent is this a breakthrough or the beginning of one?

[Schiffer] For the moment it is still difficult to speak of a breakthrough, but one can certainly state that we are in the midst of a process that could definitely lead to a dramatic change in the region — although not immediately, but rather over the course of time. It could be said that last night, Shim'on Peres and the ministers who participated in the meeting became very familiar with and knowledgeable of Egypt's position on the next stages of the peace process, or the ways to promote the Palestinian issue. The Egyptian representative held a lengthy discussion with Shim'on Peres and explained the nature of the initiative to him. The Jerusalem policymakers are fully aware of King Husayn's position in regard to the continuation of the peace process and where Yasir 'Arafat stands — and Usamah al-Baz had held lengthy talks with him as well.

We would probably not err in stating that during the meeting last night there was a sharp argument — perhaps also a bitter one — about the interpretation offered by Israel and Egypt to the Camp David accords.

[Ro'e] Was this argument regarding the Palestinian participation and what kind of Palestinians will participate?

[Schiffer] Yes, when the issue of which Palestinians will participate in the talks as part of the Jordanian delegation was discussed. Here Egypt's interpretation is broad and different from what the Israeli Government has thus far accepted, which is that Israel has all along claimed that it has the right to determine which Palestinians will participate in the talks, while the Egyptians say that even moderate PLO supporters — seeing, as they say, that there are no others — will also be allowed to participate in the future talks.

[Ro'e] Does that indicate that within the framework of the Camp David accords — or perhaps not quite within their framework — a central axis can be seen in the argument?

[Schiffer] That is indeed the central axis in the argument that evolved last night, and which will continue this morning. Finally, perhaps, let us note that this morning, too, an effort will be made to not show the envoy and allow him to depart from Israel without granting us the chance to ask him even one question. There will only be a concluding communique about the talks.

Egyptian Charge d'Affaires En Route to Jerusalem

TA270708 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0658 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv told our correspondent Eldad Beck an hour ago that Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni left for Jerusalem this morning, and will probably participate in the meeting that will be held today between the Egyptian envoy and the Israeli ministerial team headed by Peres. Our correspondent adds that Basyuni may leave for Cairo either this evening or tomorrow for consultations.

Shahal Discusses Oil Sales With Egyptian Minister

TA261438 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal today met with Egypt's oil minister in Cairo. Their meeting lasted 1 hour and 40 minutes, and following it Minister Shahal told correspoondents that Israel will continue to purchase Egyptian oil in the same quantities it has since the peace agreement. Correspondents in Cairo note that Egypt exports approximately 2 million tons of oil to Israel annually.

Envoy Holding Contacts on French Nuclear Reactors

TA261248 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Feb 85 p 2

["Exclusive" report from France by Gid'on Kuts]

[Text] Paris — Asher Ben-Natan, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' special adviser, is conducting contacts in Paris on Israel's procurement of French nuclear reactors.

Ben-Natan is holding a series of meetings with technical-level people in the French Presidential Office, the Research and Technology Ministry, the Economy, Finance and Budget Ministry, and the French Nuclear Energy Agency. Among others he is scheduled to meet with President Mitterrand's special adviser Jacques Attali who held talks on this issue in Israel not long ago, as well as with the president's technical affairs adviser, Charles Salzman.

Knowledgeable French sources said that the French Economy, Finance and Budget Ministry is now preparing a detailed proposal for supplying Israel with a reactor for the production of thermonuclear energy. France's *LIBERATION* reports that the procurement issue "has already been concluded" thanks to the particularly good terms France is offering, but Israeli sources said Israel was continuing to look into whether the deal is worthwhile.

Strauss Arrives, Says Remarks Taken Out of Context

TA262017 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Franz-Josef Strauss, the prime minister of the state of Bavaria in Germany, has arrived to Israel. Speaking at Ben-Gurion airport he said that he is not hostile to Israel, and that his remarks concerning the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia were partly taken out of context. Answering a question posed by our correspondent Dan Eshel, Strauss stressed that at present there is not even one German tank in Saudi Arabia.

Zairian President to Arrive in March

TA261222 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Feb 85 p 5

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Zairian President General Mobutu Sese Seko will arrive in Israel next month on an official visit. This is Mobutu's first visit to Israel since he resumed diplomatic relations with Israel about 3 years ago. Mobutu accepted Prime Minister Peres' invitation and will arrive in Jerusalem at the head of an entourage of army commanders and government senior ministers.

Mobutu will hold talks with the prime minister, the defense minister, Minister 'Ezer Weizman, and other officials. The topics that will be discussed in the talks will include the Israeli aid in the technological and agricultural sphere, as well as cooperation in secret projects. Since the visit to Jerusalem about 18 months ago by Liberian President Samuel Doe, a number of African leaders have secretly visited Israel, but except for Liberia and Zaire, no additional African countries have yet resumed diplomatic relations with Israel.

Finance Minister Departs for Talks in U.S.

TA260901 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0808 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 26 Feb (ITIM) — This morning Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said he shared the view that President Mubarak's initiative should not be regarded as a "public relations exercise." The facts are not yet sufficiently clear, but this is an initiative that should be examined, the minister said in a conversation with the ITIM correspondent at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure for an approximately 10-day visit to the United States. In the United States he will

meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the administration official in charge of budgetary matters, the U.S. secretary of the treasury, and the heads of the Senate and House budgetary committees; he may also meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Mr Moda'i said that if he succeeds in convincing his interlocutors of Israel's positions and its attempts to lead to an economic recovery, "in my estimation, it will be no problem, when we need additional temporary aid, the United States will grant this." The finance minister said he was not travelling with additional requests for aid and he explained that the steps Israel is taking are not intended to satisfy the U.S. demands.

He said: We are working in accordance with our needs and doing what we can in our economic, social, and political circumstances. The purpose of the trip is to explain to the administration Israel's positions on two disputed points in the evaluation of the situation between Israel and the United States — the Americans think we should cancel the index linkage and implement a profound devaluation; and we claim these moves are impossible and such a devaluation would only increase inflation.

The Americans, for their part, want to be sure that the Israeli Administration really can implement a significant cut in its outlays and I hope the budget we presented on Monday will prove this ability.

Mr Moda'i said he agrees with the American suggestion that the Bank of Israel's ability to inject money should be restricted by law and he is working to get such a law approved.

During his visit to the United States, Mr Moda'i will sign an agreement for the founding of a free trade zone between Israel and the United States, prior to bringing the agreement to the Cabinet for approval. He will also deal with the problem of decreasing customs duties between the two countries.

On his visit, he will appear before the leaders of the Jewish organizations, lecture to various forums, and also work for the United Jewish Appeal — the Bonds.

Rabin Says 'Heavy-Handed' Policy To Continue

TA261556 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The defense minister said that in the week since the IDF began to implement the heavy-handed policy, 15 terrorists have been killed, 22 wounded, and 19 inciters deported to the north. Minister Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the IDF will continue with the heavy-handed policy. Every house in which weapons are discovered will be demolished, as well as every house of suspects who run away. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that most of the members of the committee praised the new IDF policy in Lebanon. Some of the members even expressed wonder that the IDF had not implemented a heavy-handed policy sooner.

Knesset Members [MK's] Sarid and Shemtov again demanded the complete withdrawal to the international border without any interim phases. MK's Ben-Elisar, Magen, and Refa'el Eytan demanded that the IDF be permanently deployed along the Al-Litani River. The defense minister responded that the IDF has no reason to remain in Lebanon even 1 day longer than necessary. However, the withdrawal will be determined according to several considerations, among them the establishment of a security zone in the north, the preservation of security of the IDF soldiers, and the battle against Shi'ite terrorism.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami adds that the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee will hold a special meeting in a northern settlement.

Criticizes UNIFIL's French Contingent

TA262041 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today held a debate on the events in Lebanon. During the debate, the defense minister had some harsh words about members of UNIFIL's French contingent in the area. Our Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports from the studio:

The defense minister leveled harsh criticism against UNIFIL. It would have been better had UNIFIL not existed, he said, because it stands in the way of the IDF's operations against Shi'ite terrorism. The harshest criticism, however, was directed at UNIFIL's French contingent. This is what the defense minister said: They, the French, are the biggest bastards.

Some committee members were astounded by this utterances. In contast, Mr Rabin praised the army of southern Lebanon.

France Seeks Explanation of Rabin Remarks

TA270939 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] In another 2 hours, Israel's Ambassador in Paris 'Ovadya Sofer will be asked to explain to the director general of the French Ministry of External Affairs, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee about the contemptible [menuvalim] French UNIFIL soldiers who are hampering IDF operations in southern Lebanon. This morning it was learned that Ambassador Sofer will be summoned to the French Ministry of External Affairs, but he denied this to our correspondent Rafi Matar. It has now become clear that the French Ministry of External Affairs refrained from informing the ambassador last night about his summon to the Foreign Ministry, but AFP learned of it from government sources.

The UNIFIL command is concerned about the remarks attributed to the defense minister, but has not issued an official reaction. Nevertheless, our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that senior French contingent officers talked over the telephone with senior officials in the Presidential Palace in Paris and asked that the French Government not dismiss Minister Rabin's insulting remarks.

Lebanon Probing UNIFIL Deployment Coordination Idea

TA261104 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Feb 85 p 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The United States is trying to check with Jerusalem the possibility of coordinating with Lebanon the question of the deployment of UNIFIL or the Lebanese Army in the areas which the IDF will evacuate in the coming withdrawal stages. It has been learned that the subject was raised during a meeting which Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche held yesterday with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis.

Jerusalem doubts Lebanon's readiness to hold talks with Israel for the purpose of coordinating the deployment of UNIFIL in south Lebanon. Political sources said yesterday that the probing talks, through U.S. mediation, will continue this week so that Israel can point out that it has done everything possible to ensure an orderly withdrawal from Lebanon.

It is believed that in view of the developments in the area which the IDF evacuated in the first withdrawal stage, fear is increasing in the Lebanese Government regarding a sectarian war in the south. For this reason, it is thought in Jerusalem that the central government in Lebanon is still trying to secure from Israel a timetable for the next withdrawal stages to enable the Lebanese Army or UNIFIL to take over the evacuated areas. The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent points out that in April, the UN Security Council will be asked to renew the UNIFIL mandate in Lebanon, and it is possible that Lebanon will request a broadening of UNIFIL's mandate in the south. This depends at this stage on the agreement of the Syrian Government which wants to ensure that the PLO wing of Yasir 'Arafat will not regain control of the refugee camps.

Reportage on IDF Activity in Southern Lebanon

Forces Reported Searching Village

TA261258 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1248 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Since the morning hours IDF forces have been conducting searches in the village of Al-Shurayfah south of the Al-Litani River. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned this from the UNIFIL Command. Finnish UN officers in the village report that the IDF soldiers gathered about 200 men in a local school and the investigation there is continuing. The Finnish officers also said that upon the IDF entry into the village, a number of automatic arms volleys were heard, but no casualties have been reported until now. Our correspondent mentions that the IDF officers who supervise the searches were instructed to allow the UN officers to be present in the villages in the course of the searches.

'Huge Ammunition Bunker' Uncovered

TA261219 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Feb 85 pp 1, 11

[Report by military correspondent Yosef Walter]

[Excerpts] Last weekend the IDF forces uncovered a huge ammunition bunker which included a Strella shoulder missile and a quantity of ammunition "which could have sufficed the terrorists for a fight for a number of days," as defense elements put it.

The bunker was discovered in the Shi'ite village of Burj Rahhal, southeast of Tyre. It contained 37 ammunition boxes with Kalashnikovs, 14mm bullets, dozens of handgrenades, 60 mortar shells, and so on and so forth.

In the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp near Tyre, the IDF yesterday carried out searches only in houses where the hiding of arms was suspected. In the course of the searches several prepared bombs, seven handgrenades, and a pistol were seized.

The IDF forces commander in the Tyre area says that since the beginning of the evacuation, a steep rise in terrorist acts has been recorded, especially in the area of the Shi'ite villages stretching from the Al-Litani southward, which is called "the iron triangle."

Leaflets Explain New Policy

TA261427 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The IDF has imposed overnight curfews in all the villages south of the Al-Litani River to the international border, UNIFIL sources in southern Lebanon told our correspondent Hayim Hecht. This morning IDF helicopters distributed thousands of leaflets in southern Lebanese villages, declaring a curfew from sunset to sunrise. The IDF has also completely forbidden the use of motorcycles in southern Lebanon. It also forbids cars on the road with only one passenger. The leaflets distributed by the IDF also indicate that anyone who violates these regulations will endanger his life by doing so. Empty vehicles found on the shoulders of the road will be immediately blown up.

Manufacturers Association to Remain in Package Deal

TA261339 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1324 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The meeting between the heads of the Manufacturers' Association and Minister Sharon ended a short time ago in the latter's office. Our correspondent Tzahi Noga reports that Sharon accepted all of the manufacturers' demands, including price hikes and the issue of the profitability of exports.

Following the meeting, Eli Hurvitz, the head of the Manufacturers Association, told our correspondent that for the time being the association is suspending its aim to withdraw from the package deal. The presidium of the Manufacturers Association will convene tomorrow, and not on Friday, as was planned. The reason for this, according to Eli Hurvitz, is to check whether the promises will actually be implemented in the field. Our correspondent adds that at present the package deal's followup committee is convening in Tel Aviv to approve exceptional prices.

Reportage on Funding for New Settlements

Two New Settlements Budgeted

TA261442 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 26 Feb 85 p 1

[Report by the Jerusalem economic correspondent]

[Text] The financing of two new settlements in Judaea and Samaria is included in the state budget proposal. The government has decided on the establishment of new settlements, but as yet there are no funds for four of them.

According to the budget proposal, funds were allocated for opening Foreign Ministry representations in Cairo, Alexandria, Zaire, and Liberia, while the consulate in Strasbourg is expected to be closed.

The budget forecast for immigration in the coming year provides for 15,000 immigrants only, in contrast to the 19,200 who arrived in Israel in 1984. It should be noted that the number of immigrants who arrived in 1984 included 7,800 from Ethiopia.

Settlement Department Sets Budget

TA261457 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Feb 85 p 8

[Report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] The budget of the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Department slated for settlements beyond the Green Line in the coming fiscal year will amount to $30 million. The head of the Settlement Department, Matityahu Drobles, gave this data yesterday to the Zionist Executive's Finance Committee.

Of this budget, $7 million will be allocated to West Bank settlements, $7.25 million to Golan Heights settlements, $7.1 million to Jordan Valley settlements, and $4.9 million to Gaza Strip and Hebron Hills settlements.

Financial reserves totaling $3.6 million will be kept in the Settlement Department for the new settlements for whose establishment the department will be responsible this year.

It should be noted that only four new settlements will be set up by the department this year, while two additional settlements, Betar and Avne Hefez, will be set up using private enterprise and under the responsibility of the Construction and Housing Ministry.

The *DAVAR* correspondent notes that the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip Council is preparing to exert political pressures on the Finance Ministry so that it will increase the budget for the new settlements.

The head of the Settlement Department said yesterday that 51,000 settlers were counted in the Jordan Valley and in the West Bank in February 1985. Drobles also noted that there are 8,127 housing units under construction in these areas now.

Treasury Allots Funds

TA262049 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The Treasury has allotted $4 million for the establishment of the six new settlements decided on for Judaea and Samaria. The funds have been transferred to the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Department budget. Our correspondent reports that the supplementary budget has been described as an update to the department's budget, and the purpose of the funds has not been detailed. The Construction and Housing Ministry will have to finance the other two settlements and will need a similar amount for this purpose.

OAU Foreign Ministers Meeting Continues

Mengistu Message

EA261347 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 85

["Text" of Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam's message to the 41st OAU foreign ministers' ordinary session in Addis Ababa on 25 Feburary, read by Fikre-Sclassie Wodgeress, member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers — recorded]

[Text] There is enough reason to make this ministerial session focus on our organization's finance, budget, and administrative issues more so than other annual meetings. This is because it is expected to prepare documents on economic problems for the forthcoming heads of states' summit, due to be convened next June, which is expected to offer practical solutions to the economic problems that are facing Africa. Hence, by studying the strong and weak points of the action plan to rid Africa of backwardness, it is expected that the session will set up a tangible and workable program, whose implementation would be acceptable to all African countries, individually and jointly.

It is our conviction that the participation of economic and planning ministers in this session will contribute toward the successful fulfillment of the great responsibilities bestowed upon you. The general economic, [word indistinct] and the drought situation, which is rampant, has aggravated the continent's economic and social problems. In this respect there is no other continent which has been so greatly affected as Africa.

Regarding our foreign trade, the reluctance of developed countries to buy our raw materials has greatly reduced income from this sector of the economy. However, the price of goods imported from developing countries has been increasing all the time. The evident imbalance of trade, the fall in the volume of goods exported, the accumulation of heavy debts, and the fall in our income have imposed restrictions on us regarding the quality and quantity of development goods that we can import. This situation has created problems of importing spare parts, which are necessary for the limited number of industries that we have.

The African debt issue has become a great obstacle in the way of our continent's development. Some African countries have fallen into a debt from which they cannot extricate themselves. The soaring interest rates and the meagerness of income from foreign trade coupled with the lowering of the capital income have caused a sharp decline in (?our foreign exchange). Loan-giving countries and organizations have never paid proper attention to this grave African problem. The calls in various forums for the cancellation of the debts of most of the least developed countries have not met with any response. Hence, to alleviate the debt burden of the these countries, Africa should make a united and coordinated effort.

But to remove the social and development problems, we have to understand that the principal responsibility is ours, Africans. Hence, it is expected that we Africans will make great joint efforts to become self-sufficient. This is the major objective of the Lagos plan of action.

Honorable Ministers, Comrades: The recent 10-year drought has had a drastaic effect on affected Africa. The current drought is one of the ugliest that has occurred in this century. As it is recalled, no fewer than 36 African countries have been affected by natural problems, no fewer than 34 have been affected by drought, and no fewer than 24 have been unable to produce sufficient food necessary to feed themselves or to import enough to feed their population. Hence, these countries have become recipients of emergency aid.

Climatic imbalances in Africa and expanding desertification are the major causes of the serious drought. The problem we face today will soon create other problems. Other natural disasters, such as floods, violent cyclones, earthquakes, and the like have done much damage in some African countries. The present problem, which is ugly and of great concern, is the death of millions of people from food shortages and famine caused by the ugly drought. The drought has caused water shortages resulting in the death of millions of domestic animals and cattle. Lacking raw materials needed by factories, industrial activity has been disrupted. In order to contain the problems caused by the drought and find lasting solutions, African states should take joint and individual action in line with the Lagos plan. It would be particularly appropriate to take steps toward carrying out studies and research on reafforestation, soil conservation, the proper use of water resources, and the like. It is very important to have exchanges of information of the use and preservation of the environment, teaching the the public, and issuing regulations. African countries are expected to make great efforts to overcome the problems mentioned.

The problem has reached such great proportions both quantitavely and qualitatively that international cooperation and support are needed. Some encouraging actions have been taken by the international community in this respect. But some countries, by exploiting the drought and famine problem as a political weapon, are trying to pursue their political objectives. We must accordingly further strengthen our cooperation to curb such efforts and realize that they are trying to stir up divisions among us whenever they can.

Honorable Delegates, Comrades, as you all know, Ethiopia is one of the countries affected by the continuing drought. The drought, which has now spread to other parts of the country which have never experienced drought before, has done heavy damage to human life, cattle, domestic animals, wildlife, and the very meager forest resources. Having realized that the present drought in Ethiopia was not temporary, the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] and the revolutionary government, helped by our people and the international community, is engaging in short- and long-term strategies and action plans to contain the disasters caused by the drought.

Honorable Ministers, Comrades, even though the discussion will concentrate on our continent's prevailing and major economic issues, this does not mean that Africa has rid itself of its other problems. The remnants of the colonial system and the ever-increasing interference of foreign forces still are major problems for Africa. Instead of gradually improving, peace and security in South Africa are deteriorating. This is a situation which has become a threat and matter of concern not only to us Africans but to all the world's peace- and freedom-loving peoples. The inhuman acts being perpetrated by the racist regime on our brothers and sisters are currently being intensified. We are sure that the intensified struggle waged in the towns and villages of South Africa to destroy apartheid and replace it with a system under which democracy and justice can flourish and people can live in equality and without any fear will shorten the lifespan of oppressive system. We must step up our support and assistance to the vanguard nationalist movements for the intensification of the struggle and the realization of their objectives.

The recent rejection of the conditional offer by the racist regime for the release of the opposition fighter, Nelson Mandela, who is a determined African, has demonstrated the uselessness of the apartheid system. This exemplary act will be remembered with dignity by the African combatants.

Some countries which are (?far from) the Frontline States and which have not been forced to cooperate with the racist regime have flagrantly flouted decisions made from time to time. Such action is most disgraceful and destructive. Such action will not only strengthen the racist regime's [words indistinct] will obstruct the aims of the struggle of our brothers who have waged a life-and-death struggle to rid themselves of oppression. We therefore strongly oppose such action.

As regards the Namibian issue, the situation is ugly and demands further sacrifices. The Pretoria regime and its imperialist collaborators who are keen to exploit its rich raw materials are still obstructing Namibia's independence and its people's self-determination. We all know that because of the arrogant and callous attitude of the racist regime all efforts and activities in this respect have remained ineffective. One of the methods practiced by the racist Pretoria regime to maintain its supremacy in the region and to destabilize the struggle of the national movements is to exacerbate problems in the Frontline States and neighboring countries. Hence, it has continued to train and arm bandits from those countries.

We have only one way to get rid of the racist regime's arrogance at this time, and that is to intensify the political, diplomatic, and armed struggle until the oppressed people of Namibia obtain their full independence under the leadership of its vanguard representative, SWAPO, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 435. It should be understood that for every African country to fulfill its obligations in this respect, it must give unreserved support and assistance according to its ability.

Honorable Ministers, Comrades, the forum through which we can jointly solve our problems regarding the development of our countries, safeguarding the rights of our peoples, and generally coordinating our joint stand on international issues is the OAU.

In addition to the achievements of our organization regarding the anticolonial struggles, it has been possible to reach a stage where the joint stand of African countries has been accepted at international forums and has helped Africa to acquire the (?necessary) prestige.

Although the strong points and achievements of our organization satisfy us, we cannot deny that we have also weak points. Even though we have often discussed this issue, no solution has yet been found to the financial problems of our organization. The inability of member states to pay their annual contributions promptly, and the fact that some countries have not paid their contributions for a long time, have weakened the organization's activities. We have to accept the call by current OAU Chairman President Julius Nyerere and pay our contributions in order to overcome this problem.

In order to implement the various resolutions that we have adopted on economic and social matters and to carry out major activities, we have to modernize our continental organization by providing it with trained personnel and modernize its structure. So, it is our strong conviction that you will adopt important resolutions after seriously considering the resolutions adopted by the 39th ordinary congress and put forward by the administrative, budget, and finance consultative committee.

Finally, I would like to express my best wishes on behalf of the WPE, the Ethiopian Government and people for a fruitful result to your deliberations, during your stay in our country. Long live the OAU! Thank you. [applause]

Onu on Moroccan Celebration

LD262337 Algiers APS in English 1343 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26-2-85 (APS) — Interim OAU secretary general Dr. Peter Onu appealed on Morocco to reconsider its decision to celebrate the anniversary of his accession to the throne in El Ayoun, in Western Sahara. Dr. Peter Onu, who presented his annual report at the 41st OAU ministerial session, said about this subject that everything should be done to avoid complicating a problem already too complicated. Concerning the Western Sahara problem, the OAU interim secretary general recalled that this crisis was aggravated because Sahraoui people is still denied its right to selfdetermination.

In order to institute peace in this region, declared Dr. Peter Onu, all efforts of mediation and negotiation either from OAU or from those who could help should be encouraged.

This is why, said Dr. Onu we call on all those who are concerned to cooperate in order to reach peace in this area.

Onu Outlines Economic Crisis

EA262317 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Dr Peter Onu [OAU interim secretary general] said that since the convening of the 20th OAU summit, Africa's economic crisis had worsened. If strong measures are not immediately applied, the situation will reach an irreversible stage. This is what Dr Peter Onu said in a report presented today on the organization's activities from November 84 up to this month and on the continent's overall political, economic, and social situation.

Dr Peter Onu noted that the current ministerial session would not, like previous ones, concentrate solely on financial, budgetary, and administrative issues, but also had the responsibility for preparing the economic agenda for the 21st summit and related issues.

He said an OAU office delegation had toured drought-hit African countries, including Ethiopia, and had thereby come to realize that unless all the help needed to contain drought and famine was made available immediately, the greatest disaster in the history of mankind was possible. He said the efforts of the drought-hit African countries should be supplemented by other African countries, adding that Africa's response to this trying situation must be to establish an emergency relief organization to contain drought and famine.

The interim secretary general reported on the organization's achievements in the continent's educational, scientific, cultural, judicial, and social spheres.

He also presented a report on Africa's refugee problem and the cooperation between African and Arab countries.

In a report on the continent's political problems, Dr Peter Onu said the major ones were Chad's long-standing internal problem, the South Africa racist regime's efforts to destabilize peaceful development in the Frontline States, namely Angola and Mozambique, the situation in the Horn of Africa, and the fighting in Western Sahara.

Onu Presents 'Austerity' Budget

AB261836 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Addis Ababa, Feb 26 (AFP) — The interim secretary general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Peter Onu, today presented OAU ministers meeting here with an austerity budget proposal for 1985-1986 and complained strongly about massive unpaid dues by member states.

Unveiling his 23.25 million dollar budget for fiscal 1985, representing an 8.10 percent drop from last year's budget, Mr Onu said his proposal had "all the trappings of austerity." The budget is to be examined by the current ministerial council before being presented to African heads of state a summit planned for later this year.

Mr Onu, turning to the problem of unpaid dues, told the gathered ministers that only 26.4 percent of fees owed by members for the budgetary year ending this month had been received. He added that total unpaid dues now stood at some 39 million dollars — 18 million dollars for 1984-85 and nearly 20 million dollars for the period from 1965 to may 1984. "We believe that the time has come for the council to treat this question of outstanding arrears and tardy contributions seriously in order to find a permanent solution to the problem," Mr Onu said. But despite the OAU's financial difficulties, analysts said punitive measures such as excluding non-paying countries from the organization appeared out of the question given the catastrophic economic situation facing many member states.

Mr Onu said that given the current situation on the continent, where an estimated 150 million people — one of every two Africans — are affected by famine, it would be very difficult for the OAU to meet development targets set during the previous summit held here late last year.

During the first OAU economic summit held in Lagos in 1980, members adopted a series of measures, known as the Lagos Plan, destined to promote economic self-sufficiency. While recognizing that the unprecedented natural disasters — principally famine — which struck the continent since the Lagos summit had held up implementation of the plan, Mr Onu urged member states to redouble their efforts and called on the World Bank to boost its aid for the plan. But he added that the African states themselves would have to in turn improve "economic management at the national level", a topic he said would be raised at an OAU economic summit scheduled for later this year.

Mr Onu went on to give a lengthy report on various OAU activities and revealed that only 19 OAU members had so far signed the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. Only 15 of these states had actually ratified the document, he said. He added that an experts committee was currently examining long-delayed plans to revise the OAU Charter and would present findings in the near future.

The current ministerial council, which opened yesterday and is scheduled to end March 5, is to examine reports on both economic and political problems, including the Western Sahara conflict, tensions in the Horn of Africa and southern Africa.

Cameroonian Elected Council Chairman

AB261600 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Cameroon's minister of foreign affairs, William Eteki Mboumoua, has been unanimously elected chairman of the 41st ministerial council of the Organization of African Unity, currently holding its meeting in Addis Ababa.

In an opening speech at yesterday's session, Ethiopian Deputy Leader Fikre-Selassie vehemently condemned South Africa's apartheid policy of racial discrimination and spoke out against African states for failure to respect restriction on links with the racist regime in Africa — an apparent reference to Somalia.

Agenda Approved

EA262351 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The 41st ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers entered its 2d day today by unanimously adopting an 11-item agenda for its deliberations, which will last until 5th of March. Following the adoption of the agenda, the session listened to a report of the interim secretary general of the OAU, Dr Peter Onu, on the activities of the organization covering the period from last November to the present. The agenda of the Ministerial Council includes financial and political issues, Afro-Asian cooperation, cultural, scientific, (?regional) education, legal, and economic matters, as well as items proposed by member-states.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi on Disunity, Danger From U.S., Israel

LD241152 Tripoli JANA in English 0828 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 3, February 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution pointed out to the danger threatening the Arab nation besides the Zionist threat and the overall American threat. There was a factional threat on the Arab nation. He said in his meeting today with the Egyptian and Syrian students on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the declaration of the unity between Syria and Egypt the enemy is planning to divide the Arab nation at a time of weakness now into Christian-Muslim, Shia and Suna, they have already announced a program of dividing Egypt into two countries: Copts and Muslims.

The leader of the revolution reaffirmed the resurrection of the Arab unionist force against sectarianism and the decadent right-wing groups such as the Muslim Brothers agents of America. He made clear that this force now is faced by a dangerous challenge either to prevail or prove its weakness and defeatism and let sectarian forces which abort Arab nationalism and Arab unity prevail. He said "We have to be an angry [words indistinct] generation and we have no choice but to fight fiercely against the tendencies hostile to Arab unity, (?Arab) nationalism and mercilessly obliterate it.

The leader of the revolution [words indistinct] were attempts by the crusading West to resurrect a new crusade in the Arab east. Also, the Zionists are planning to assert the division in the Arab world.

He went on to say "Arab unity between Egypt and Syria was established amidst difficult conditions. But it was a reaffirmation that this nation is one nation and this people is one people." He added that the continuation of unity and its development leads to the creation of other social conditions for the benefit of the masses which should benefit from unity.

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Overthrow of Egyptian Regime

LD241213 Tripoli JANA in English 0834 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 3, February 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has stressed the need to topple the puppet regime in Egypt which had sold Egypt to America and the Zionist enemy, and accepted to hoist the Israeli flag in the heart of Egypt.

In his talk this morning with the Egyptian and Syrian students in Libya on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the declaration of unity between Egypt and Syria he said "There is no bigger crime in Arab history to match the one perpetrated by the Egyptian regime which should be exposed at every sunrise until it reaches the point of collapse." He pointed out that the demise of the Egyptian regime was necessary for the interests of the Arab nation, its security and existence on its lands.

Addressing the Egyptian and Syrian students he said "You are like an angry generation. Your anger should be directed foremost against the ruling regime in Egypt which has insulted the martyrs of Egypt and enabled the Zionists to walk over bridges made up of the bodies of your forefathers in Egypt; this is antagonising, demeaning and an insult to the Egyptian people." He went on to say "The puppet regime in Egypt opened the land of Egypt to the Zionists who are entering Egypt in their hundreds every day at a time the regime closed the borders between Egypt and Libya."

The leader of the revolution warned that the Arab nation and the Arab land are in danger and that the enemy was planning to take it pointing out that the false peace came at the expense of the Arab nation, its life and destiny. He added "This alleged peace aims at the division of Egypt into several mini-states and the occupation of Sinai and River Nile."

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi exposed the imperialist-Zionist schemes in the Arab world and said "There was a challenge and undermining of the Arab nation." The leader of the revolution made clear that "The enemies of the Arab nation depend on America which is the superpower with the aim of the destruction of the military power of Syria which they failed in achieving through Lebanon thanks to the Lebanese national resistance which forced them to withdraw defeated and despised having suffered colossal losses."

He told the Egyptian and Syrian students "The Zionist plan being prepared now was to reach Syria via the Golan and not through Lebanon as they planned and failed because they came face to face with an armed people." He went on to say that the program of the Zionist enemy was to take control of the River Nile through the Sinai to the Negev Desert and to bring in 12 million Jews settling them in Sinai and Negev and dividing Egypt into a Copt and Muslim state and make the Egyptian people live in humiliation under the Americans and Israelis. Thus the danger which would [words indistinct] as a result of this plan would affect us after [words indistinct] following their success in disintegrating Egypt, they will move their forces towards the Libyan borders. Thus the toppling of the Egyptian regime is necessary for the defense of the Arab nation because this regime is leading the Egyptian people to this horrifying scheme.

He said that "It is up to the generation of anger to continue the struggle to unite the Arab world from the ocean to the Gulf in the face of the American-Zionist plans and conspiracies."

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi referred, in his address to the Egyptian and Syrian students in Tripoli today, to Husayn-'Arafat agreement concerning negotiations with the Zionist enemy and stressed that "We do not recognise them, their masters, their cards nor whatever they may do. For we only recognize our presence on our land without any intruder and the existence of a strong progressive unifier." The leader of the revolution ridiculed the pronouncements of the Egyptian regime concerning the return of Sinai affirming that Sinai is still deemed under occupation and that the enemy would return to it anew, and the ruling regime in Egypt was a fascist, puppet and treacherous regime which can offer nothing to the Egyptians. For the Egyptian land has died, the peasants are dying and the Egyptians have nothing but the funds they bring back from

working abroad. Nobody benefits in Egypt but the contractors, the jobbers and the brokers in league with the Israelis and the Americans, a handful who built the tourist hotels, services and clubs, ignoring the land, the factories and everything else besides. Egypt today receives wheat every three months from America. Egypt, which is supposed to supply America. The Egyptian rulers beg Uncle Sam every three months to give them a handful of wheat. This is a shame and disgrace. Where is the Nile, where is the lake of Nasir? And where is the high dam?

Addressing the Egyptian students, he said "Your task, you Egyptians, is the liquidation of the puppet regime in Egypt."

Saudi Minister Praises Ties With Jamahiriyah
LD270713 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, 26 February (JANA) — Dr Muhammad al-Mulhim, minister of state and member of the Saudi cabinet, and members of the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this evening after attending the opening session of the General People's Congress.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent, Dr al-Mulhim praised the deep ties between the Libyan and Saudi fraternal peoples. He added that the General People's Congress invitation to us to attend its 10th session was an honor for us. What we saw at the congress meetings aroused our admiration.

I bring me with me, he said, the greetings of King Fahd, the Crown Prince, and the Saudi Arabian people to the Libyan Arab people and Commander Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. We received so much fine hospitality that we felt as though we never left Riyadh. This proves the depth of relations between Saudi Arabia and Libya.

Reportage on General People's Congress Meeting
LD262042 Tripoli JANA in English 1416 GMT 26 Feb 85

[All figures as received]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 6, February 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Proceedings of the General People's Congress [GPC], a meeting place of people's congresses, committees and associations, trade union and professional organizations, began early today at the People's Hall in Tripoli its 10th ordinary session to formulate the decisions of the basic people's congresses adopted in their 3d ordinary session for 1984.

At the opening of the session, Dr Muftah al-Ustah 'Umar, the G.P.C. secretary, delivered the following speech: "In the name of Allah, we open the first meeting of the 10th ordinary session, the general gathering of people's congresses and committees, of trade unions and professional leagues. In their name, I address brothers and friends from sisterly and friendly countries, to extend to them warm welcome and expressions of esteem. In your name, I greet your peoples and hope that your presence among us will be an opportunity to be acquainted with the humane orientations of Libyan Arab people towards all mankind.

"Dear brothers: We, here, holding the 10th ordinary session of the G.P.C., should remember that we have speedily and resolutely moved forward, where others needed dozens of years to do so.

"Today on our 10th gathering, we witness this and show the world and history the fruits of these past years. Oppressed blacks and whites world wide aspire towards emancipation. The hearts of the free and the revolutionaries lean towards the cradle of the new renaissance. Jamahiriyah becomes the international platform of revolution and liberation, a mecca and a source of strength for revolutionaries worldwide. Fear overtakes the forces of evil, tyranny and exploitation. America launched campaigns of provocation, terror, starvation.

"In the Arab homeland the revolution was the bitter cup in the mouth of defeatists, a dagger, in the back of the enemy and the terror in the eyes of the cowards, rejecting traitors and their capitulation, despising their submission and exposing their treason, while, with action and arms, it incited Arab masses to the armed struggle within the popular liberation war.

"The revolution then realizes the enemy and delineates its struggle with it for life and existence. Not fictitious battles for the sake of an inch or a border. There will never be any peace with the enemy, no understanding, no truce and no co-existence. Rather, there will be a firece battle until the enemy or us are removed, either Arabs or Jews.

"Then comes the fervent call for geniuine Arab unity. Our steps begin on the road to unity, backed by the genunity of the revolution. On a memorable day, the union between Jamahiriyah and Morocco is proclaimed. Basic people's congresses endorse the union. The Arab masses then realize that unity is a reality and that one day, hopefully soon, the masses will march to realize the great dream. The masses of the east will one day march from the Yemen, the Hijaz, the Gulf, Iraq, Algeria the mother of one million martyrs, Green Tunisia which erupted like a volcano on the eve of the Jerba Declaration, even the oppressed masses will march, from the east and west, like a flood destroying barriers and opening borders, to realize the hopes aspired for."

At the end of the G.P.C. secretary's speech, his deputy read out the resolutions adopted by basic people's congresses during their third ordinary meeting for the year 1984 relating to the first article on the implementation of the above mentioned resolutions, which were formulated during the 1984 9th ordinary session of the G.P.C.

The G.P.C. then moved on to the first article on the agenda, relating to the implementation of the transformation and administrative budgets for the year 1984. The resolutions of the basic people's congresses were as follows:

1. 1561 congresses (74.63 per cent) were satisfied and urged a follow up of implementation.
2. 440 congresses (21.4 per cent) made comments.
3. 17 congresses (0.82 per cent) not satisfied.
4. 74 congresses (3.32 per cent) gave no answer.

On the second article relating to the 1984 administrative budget:

1. 1544 (73.82 per cent) expressed satisfaction and urged pursuit of implementation.
2. 466 (22.27 per cent) made comments.
3. 33 (1.57 per cent) were not satisfied.
4. 49 (2.24 per cent) gave no answer.

On the third article relating to the 1985 transformation budget:

1. 1181 (56.54 per cent) endorsed the budget.
2. 884 (42.25 per cent) made comments.
3. 27 (0.31 per cent) no answer.

After a short break, the G.P.C. resumed proceedings. The deputy secretary then read out the following resolutions relating to the 1985 administrative budget:

1. 1181 (56.47per cent) endorsed the budget.
2. 880 (42.6) made comments.
3. 1 (0.4 per cent) did not endorse it.
4. 30 (1.43 per cent) gave no answer.

On the fourth article relating to domestic policy:

In the economic sector:

(A) Trade budget:

(1) 439 (20.98 per cent) in favor.
(2) 1636 (78.22 per cent) made comments.
(3) 2 (0.9 per cent) against.
(4) 15 (0.71 per cent) gave no answer.

(B) Organization of companies and public corporations:

(1) 1308 (66.85 per cent) in favor.
(2) 628 (30.1 per cent) made comments.
(3) 11 (0.52 per cent) against.
(4) 55 (2.62 per cent) gave no answer.

In the education sector:

(A) Field study:

(1) 1792 (85.65 per cent) were in favor.
(2) 273 (13.05 per cent) made comments.
(3) 3 (0.05 per cent) were against.
(4) 24 (01.15 per cent) gave no answer.

(B) Education infrastructure:

(1) 1451 (69.36 per cent) in favor.
(2) 618 (29.55 per cent) made comments.
(3) 6. (0.28 per cent) were against.
(4) 1 (0.4 per cent) endorsed the old infrastructure.
(5) 16 (0.77percent) gave no answer.

(C) Contribution of Libyans qualified for teaching:

(1) 1590 (76 per cent) in favor.
(2) 466 (22.28 per cent) made comments.
(3) 9 (0.43 per cent) were against.
(4) 1 (0.4 per cent) in favor of postponing resolution.
(5) 8 (0.38 per cent) did not discuss resolution.
(6) 18 (0.87 per cent) gave no answer.

Following the announcement of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses on the agenda, assistant secretary of the General People's Congress outlined that the congress is to be divided in 5 subcommittees as follows:

1) Following up of basic people's congresses resolutions.
2) Interior policy.
3) General issues.
4) Laws.
5) Foreign policy.

Assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress pointed out that the congress Secretariat, the General People's Committee and Municipalities for the General People's Committees will be divided according to these subcommittees.

As for the secretaries of the people's congresses abroad, they will join the Foreign Policy Subcommittee.

Then, the morning session adjourned and it was decided that it would resume at 4.30 evening.

Congress Meeting Resumes

LD271148 Tripoli JANA in English 0943 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 7, Feb. 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The G.P.C. resumed its evening session at 5 pm yesterday. The five committees set up by the congress at the opening session reviewed and formulated resolutions of the basic people's congresses (B.P.C.) in the fields of domestic and foreign policies, several secretaries of B.C.P. and people's committees made a number of comments in this respect.

The committee in charge of following up the resolutions and recommendations of B.P.C. regarding the 1984 transformation and administrative budgets conc_ntrated on reviewing these while the Domestic Policy Committee reviewed resolutions on the organization of public corporations and companies.

The Foreign Policy Committee on its part focused on a report by the Foreign Liaison Bureau and Jamahiriyah-British relations while the Law Committee took up the issue of establishing the National Harbors Company, the National Airports Company, the issue of compensations due to the implementation of revolutionary dicta, the law on some criminal and public order offenses, the law on ownership and use of buildings, and the law on offenses relating to jobs and professions. The committee in charge of general issues took up issues relating to popularization.

The session ended at 9 pm and is due to be resumed this morning at 9 am.

Anti-Libyan 'Terrorists' Arrested in FRG

LD231752 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Feb (JANA) — Reliable sources claim that during the past few days a number of terrorists, entrusted by Yasir 'Arafat to carry out assassination and sabotage operations in Libya and Syria, were arrested in the FRG.

The sources said that Yasir 'Arafat sent several groups of terrorist elements to a number of countries, including Britain, France, Spain and Italy for this purpose.

Yasir 'Arafat, having finally abandoned the use of arms to liberate Palestine, is now aiming his rifle at those who sacrificed and continue to sacrifice a great deal for the sake of the Palestinian cause. Through such means and disgraceful actions he has embarked on terrorist and subversive actions against Libya and Syria who are struggling in the forward trenches for the sake of the Palestine revolution.

JANA Criticizes U.S. Attitude on Union With Morocco

LD251425 Tripoli JANA in English 0855 GMT 25 Feb 85

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 5, Feb. 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY --*THE WASHINGTON POST* American newspaper claimed yesterday that the Moroccan foreign minister, Abdellatif Filali, has assured the American Government that there is no justification for its concern with regard to the issue of the Arab-African union.

THE WASHINGTON POST quoted an American official as saying that the union treaty between Morocco and Libya is still a contentious issue in the eyes of the American Government. The political editor of JANA commented on these American allegations by saying "Let America be concerned if it wants to be concerned and worried, for that is its business and its concern and worry. It does not interest us, we Arabs, at all especially if the cause of this concern was our work towards our unity and the reaffirmation of our identity and the liberation of our will. How strange for America to behave as though it is our custodian and guardian. Its megalomania, vanity and the weak position of some of us towards it made it imagine that there is nothing for us except what it wanted for us and that we do not move unless it was according to its whims and plans.

Let it be known to America that we are a nation described by God as "Ye are the best community that hath here raised up for mankind".A nation thanks to its contributions the world has reached where it is now in the modern era of progress and civilization. [sentence as received]

A nation which always refused to be subjugated and thanks to it were led national liberation movements in contemporary history where it gave millions of martyrs and still does, endured material sacrifices and tremendous suffering and still endures. [sentence as received] Let it be known to America that we are a nation that refuses to have its pride trampled upon and refuses to allow the American arrogance to go as far as to let her imagine that she is our custodian.

We were liberated through honorable battles, we fought throughout our Arab homeland, battles whose fires burnt every ignorant [as received] of history and of its facts. We will unite at our will and impose this unity upon everyone, whether they want it or not. The Oujda Treaty signed by the leader of the great 1st September Revolution and King Hassan II and approved by the Arab people in Morocco and Libya is but a first step and a cornerstone.

MAURITANIA

Algerian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

LD262109 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Dec 84

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs, left the capital this evening after a short visit to our country during which he was received by Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the CMSN and president of the Republic.

Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi was seen off by Lieutenant Colonel Djibril Ould Abdallah, the minister of interior and acting minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

SUDAN

Numayri Speaks on Sudan's Economic Crisis

JN261827 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1718 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Dunqulah, 26 Feb (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has affirmed that the economic crisis experienced by the country is an indivisible part of the economic crisis the nations of the world, especially the developing countries, are experiencing today. This statement came in the speech he made today in Dunqulah, Northern Region, to the masses that received him at the beginning of his visit to the region.

The president pointed out that the exacerbation of the crisis is due to unjust world economic policies, which Sudan believes should be revised and replaced with a new world economic order to ensure the foundations of justice and stability to which all mankind aspire. The president explained that Sudan, out its desire to tackle the adverse effects of this crisis, has set up a Higher Economic Council to control the economic process. This council, he affirmed, has firmly tackled the negative aspects that certain people created to serve their greedy ends.

The president warned against anyone who contemplates tampering with the Sudanese people's rights, undermining their strength, or stealing their funds. He affirmed that the only way to overcome the economic crisis is to completely depend on ourselves. This, he added, is only possible by increasing cultivated areas, increasing production, and creating opportunities in Sudan. He said: We must fully utilize these basic resources so that we can depend on ourselves and liberate ourselves from the

harsh economic subservience that harms our dignity and independence, among other things. The president said: We will work until we triumph through our willpower and strong resolution.

The president began the speech by greeting the people of Dunqulah and the Northern Region and enumerating the glories of the region. He also referred to the harsh conditions experienced by the citizens of this region, and the efforts being exerted by the local government to overcome the obstacles facing the region's agricultural plans. He pointed out that these circumstances are a test for our self-confidence, true determination, firm belief, and strong conviction on all levels.

Calls for National Unity

JN261840 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1724 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Dunqulah, 26 Feb (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has renewed the call for dialogue with the outlaws for the sake of the higher national interests. He said: We are ready for dialogue with any individual or group, provided they uphold national values and there is no compromise on the principles of the revolution, prejudice of the citizens' rights, or forfeiture of the revolution's accomplishments.

Addressing the masses in Dunqulah, Northern Region, this afternoon, the president referred to the repeated appeals for dialogue for the sake of higher national interests and explained thatacts of sabotage only result in great damage at a time when the homeland needs concerted efforts to achieve a respectable life for the citizen.

The president said: We are ready for dialogue for the sake of preserving our national entity, unity, and security. We have no ulterior motives and we are serious, as dictated by our higher national interests. He added: For this purpose, the doors will remain open to all those who care for the homeland, its cohesion, and its national unity. The president affirmed that national unity is as dear as the people and precious as the national soil. This unity will neither be abandoned nor compromised, he said. He also affirmed that efforts will continue to overcome all obstacles. He added: We will exert efforts so that our land will double its produce, and we will resist all attempts to undermine our accomplishments. Our eyes will remain wide open, in order to follow all enemy attempts to undermine our unity and strength.

The president affirmed: This is our strong conviction. Unified, strong, and secure, Sudan is first and last. We will sacrifice our blood and souls for the sake of these objectives.

Finance Minister, Bank Official Leave for U.S.

JN261445 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1428 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (SUNA) — 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abd al-Wahhab, minister of state for economic planning, and Faruq al-Maqbl, the governor of the Bank of Sudan, left for Washington last night on a week-long visit to the United States. During this visit, they will hold talks on U.S. and IMF economic assistance for Sudan.

U.S. Defense Delegation Arrives 26 Feb

JN261442 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (SUNA) — U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense William Howard Taft IV arrived at 1100 today for a 2-day visit. During the visit, he will meet with Field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Republic, minister of defense, and supreme commander of the Armed Forces; and senior officials.

Taft is accompanied by a high-ranking delegation.

Received by President

JN261526 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (SUNA) — Field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Republic, defense minister, and commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, received William Howard Taft, U.S. deputy secretary of defense, at the People's Palace this morning. Following the meeting, Taft said in a statement to the press that he and the president reviewed U.S. military aid to Sudan, the training of military personnel from the People's Armed Forces in the United States, the problems currently facing Sudan, and some security issues in the Horn of Africa. He also said: I told the president that I came to Sudan as a friend, for better or for worse.

Answering a question about the expected U.S. move after the problems which have faced the ANZUS alliance, Taft said: We and our allies are exchanging views on the New Zealand Government's stand, which prevents U.S. ships carrying nuclear arms from approaching its borders to participate in ANZUS military maneuvers. He noted that the U.S. Government has not yet adopted a specific stand, and that it will discuss this matter with the New Zealand Government.

Regarding his visit to Sudan, Taft said: The visit comes within the framework of a tour of Kenya, Zaire, Senegal, and Somalia. He pointed out that these countries have joint military programs with the United States.

Taft arrived in Khartoum from Somalia at 1100 today on a 2-day visit to the country.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN271126 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Feb (SUNA) — William Howard Taft, U.S. deputy secretary of defense, left here today for Cairo. Taft met with President Numayri yesterday and reviewed U.S. military aid to Sudan, problems currently confronting Sudan, and security issues in the Horn of Africa.

Taft arrived in Khartoum yesterday from Somalia within the framework of a tour that included Zaire, Kenya, and Senegal.

WESTERN SAHARA

Algiers: Moroccan Garrison in Mining Area Attacked

LD261916 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Tomorrow the Saharan people celebrate [words indistinct] 9 years of the independence of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], a republic which is already recognized by 60 countries of the world.

The day before the ninth anniversary of the SDAR, the great Maghreb liberation offensive has just had another success. A military operation by the Saharan fighters took place yesterday in the mining region of Bu Craa, at [name indistinct], where a camp belonging to the Moroccan forces was attacked. The toll: 71 Moroccan soldiers killed, 95 injured, a large quantity of war materiel burned or destroyed. In the face of the violence of the Saharan attack the military garrison, whose personnel were weakened, was forced to flee.

ETHIOPIA

PDRY Leader Arrives, Holds Talks With Mengistu

GF262010 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Dispatch by Nasir 'Abd al-Habib]

[Excerpts] Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, arrived at Addis Ababa international airport at 1700 today on a working visit to Ethiopia in response to an invitation which he received from Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam.

The delegation includes Comrades Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the Political Bureau and minister of defense; Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the YSP Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of fish resources; Nasir Nasir 'Ali, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of labor and civil service; Mahmud al-Najashi, member of the YSP Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee; and 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of energy and minerals.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad and Mengistu Haile Mariam held a closed meeting. During the meeting a number of issues which concern the two revolutions and the two friendly countries and the situation in the region were discussed.

Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reviewed the developments and successes that have been achieved by the PDRY and the activities which the Republic is currently witnessing in order to prepare for the third YSP general congress and the preparation for the third 5-year plan for economic and social development and the implementation of the 5th year plan of the second 5-year plan. He also explained the efforts that are being exerted by the leadership of our party to coordinate between the two parts of the homeland on the course to reunify the homeland through peaceful and democratic means.

Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad explained to the Ethiopian leader the PDRY view regarding political developments in the region and the PDRY stance toward those developments.

For his part, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam reviewed the developments Ethiopia is witnessing in the course of accomplishing the revolutionary duties of the Workers Party of Ethiopia for economic and social progress and in order to handle the difficulties facing revolutionary Ethiopia.

The views of the leaders of the two parties and countries regarding all the issues that were discussed and reviewed between them during this meeting were similar.

Bulgarian Delegation Arrives for Commission Meeting

EA261634 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] A high-ranking Bulgarian delegation led by Comrade Pencho Kubadinski, Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of the Fatherland Front, arrived in Addis Ababa this morning to attend the sixth Ethiopian-Bulgarian joint commission meeting.

On arrival at Bole International Airport, Comrade Pencho Kubadinski was met by Comrade Adis Tedla, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee Politburo member and deputy chairman of the National Central Planning Committee; Comrade Wollie Chekol, WPE Central Committee member and external trade minister; Comrade Aklilu Afework, with the rank of a commissioner, head of the production department in the National Central Planning Committee; and the ambassadors of the two countries.

SOMALIA

DFSS Says OAU Should Expel Regime for RSA Ties

EA270646 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] A press release issued yesterday by the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces called for the expulsion of Siad Barre's regime from the membership of the OAU. It said its delegate should not be allowed to attend the ongoing meeting of the OAU foreign ministers which opened at the OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa yesterday.

The DFSS press statement further said that the Barre regime had committed grave crimes against Africa's human dignity and freedom in allying itself with the apartheid regime of South Africa. The Barre regime has violated the principles of the OAU and the United Nations and the OAU resolution adopted by the OAU summit held in Mogadishu in 1974.

The Barre regime cannot disprove the shameful acts it has committed. The so-called defense minister of the regime, who is also the so-called first vice president, General Ali Samantar, and a Somali military delegation made a secret visit to Johannesburg in May 1984, during which the Siad Barre regime and the Pretoria government signed agreements covering the defense, economic, and communication sectors.

Similarly, in September 1984, the Barre regime's foreign minister, Abdurahman Jama Barre, and the regime's ambassador in Nairobi made an official visit to Johannesburg in order to strengthen the new relations between the terror regime of Siad Barre and apartheid South Africa.

The press statement released by the DFSS further added that in January this year, Pik Botha made a visit to Mogadishu and stayed at Villa Beidoa. A banquet was held for Botha at Villa Somalia by Mohamed Siad Barre, which clearly indicates, as the Somalis say: Birds of a feather flock together.

The press statement by the Front further disclosed that South African pilots and technicians are stationed at Bali Dogleh and Baidoa Somali Air Force bases. The statement goes on to say that South African military training officers and technicians are in all the Somali Armed Forces' training centers.

In return, Siad Barre gave a military base to South Africa in Kismayu, southern Somalia, and gave landing and overflying rights in Somalia to South African Airways.

The press statement by the DFSS asks: What is the purpose of such a military base? South Africa has three aims in taking the military base in Somalia:

1. To stir up instability and cripple African countries;

2. To free itself from the total isolation imposed on the regime by Africa and the world at large so that it can perpetuate its apartheid policy;

3. To confirm to the world at large that African nations can be manipulated with small gifts.

The DFSS press statement yesterday adds that it is up to the OAU member-states to prevent the dictatorial regime of Siad Barre from alleging [as heard] itself and cooperating with the fascist regime of South Africa and force it to abrogate any earlier agreement.

The press statement added that if this matter is not dealt with, other dictators in the continent might take their cue from dictator General Barre and as such surely bury and destroy Africa's efforts to eradicate colonialism and apartheid in the continent.

The OAU ministerial council currently meeting in Addis Ababa have only two choices: either to courageously face the issue and expel the Siad regime from the continental body or to make ineffective resolutions.

The press statement added that the DFSS, speaking on behalf of the Somali nation, declares that dictator Siad Barre cannot represent the true spirit of the Somali people, who are opposed to all types of cooperation and ties with apartheid South Africa. The DFSS accordingly wishes the OAU Council of Ministers current meeting at Africa Hall in Addis Ababa success.

Rebels Claim 58 Government Soldiers Killed

EA252132 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The gallant fighters of the 15th Gorod Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces on 23 February 1985 attacked the Matabaan and (Guriya Ceel) bases of loyalist troops of General Siad on the major highway connecting the south and north of Somalia, killing 58 and wounding 108 soldiers, thus inflicting heavy casualties on the loyalist troops of the Mogadishu regime.

The 62d and 33d Battalion of the 5th Brigade of the 21st Division of the loyalist troops of the dictatorial regime of Gen Barre suffered a humiliating defeat in the hands of the intrepid fighters of the DFSS. The attacking intrepid fighters of the DFSS destroyed one TM Fiat Tanker Lorry, one BM-21 type field gun, one APC vehicle, and two SU-23 type antiaircraft guns. The DFSS fighters returned to their base safely.

CAMEROON

New Envoy to Liberia Presents Credentials to Doe

AB262238 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Victor Eyemba Ndiba, the Cameroonian ambassador to Liberia, has just presented his credentials to President Samuel Kanyon Doe. Our ambassador has expressed the esteem of the Cameroonian people and their president for the efforts made by President Doe for the well-being of the Liberian people.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Authorities 'Vigilant' Against Libyan Moves

AB261557 Paris AFP in French 1416 GMT 26 Feb 85

[By Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Excerpts] Bangui, 26 Feb (AFP) — The release on 31 December of 53 "opponents" of the CAR military regime has made it possible to ease a little the country's political atmosphere, but the authorities remain "vigilant" because, they stress, some people are still toying with the idea of destablizing the regime, notably "at the instigation of Libya."

General Andre Kolingba's regime, set up on 1 September 1981, is in fact convinced that it is considered by Libya "a major obstacle" to the policy of support for the guerrillas in southern Chad who have rebelled against Ndjamena and whom Tripoli "continues to use" in order to disrupt the authority of President Hissein Habre.

The territory of the CAR "has served for a long time and will continue to serve as a rear base for the pro-Libyan agents" in charge of supplying arms, ammunition, and money to the opposition groups in the south which are operating in Chad's southern provinces, an authorized source said in Bangui.

Many of the opposition elements who were released on the occasion of the new year are still under severe "control" and cannot leave CAR territory. Gen Kolingba's entourage believe that they can, at any moment, be "approached and manipulated by Libya and succumb to its advances." Many leaders of the clandestine CAR People's Liberation Movement have affirmed to AFP that Libya has made offers of financial support to them but that they "rejected all of them."

On 18 January, the CAR head of state laid the cornerstone of the future national assembly. He promise to submit to a referendum a new constitution (the former constitution was suspended as soon as he assumed power) and to encourage "soon" the return of civilians to his government.

CHAD

Ambassador From France Appointed to New Post

AB251833 Paris AFP in French 1619 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Exceprt] Ndjamena, 25 Feb (AFP) — Claude Soubeste, former consul general and then France's ambassador to Chad, who has just been appointed ambassador to Niger, was made commander of the national order of Chad — the highest national award of the Chadian Government — by President Hissein Habre on Monday. Mr Soubeste, it was learned from a reliable source, might be replaced by Christien Dutheil de la Rochere, now France's ambassador to Congo. No confirmation was given, however, at the French Ministry of External Relations.

GABON

L'UNION Calls for Diversified Trade Ties

AB252037 Paris AFP in French 1306 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Libreville, 25 Feb (AFP) — It is in Gabon's interest to diversify its international cooperation and not to let a situation of monopoly develop itself essentially to the benefit of France, which now holds 55 percent of Gabon's market, the national daily *L'UNION* wrote today.

The paper lays emphasis on the need for Gabon to strengthen its relations with the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) "inasmuch as that country is one of the world's major economic and technological powers." *L'UNION* believes that "what matters is to have a choice among European companies, notably French [as received], in order to avoid a situation of monopoly likely to be detrimental to the interests of our country."

According to Gunther Koenig, FRG ambassador to Gabon, whose observations are carried by *L'UNION*, until 1982, the FRG only held 5 percent of the Gabonese market. "Henceforth, the FRG will have to try and acquire 25 or 30 percent of that market," Mr Koenig pointed out. This objective is endorsed by the Gabonese head of state, *L'UNION* states.

In addition to France and the FRG, Gabon's major economic partners are the United States, Japan, and EEC countries.

ZAIRE

Congolese Information Minister Meets Mobutu

AB261758 Paris AFP in French 1639 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 26 Feb (AFP) — The absence of telecommunications links between Kinshasa and Brazzaville, "the closest capitals of the world," is "shocking," according to Christian Gilbert Bembet, Congolese minister of information, posts, and telcommunications, who is on a visit to the Zairian capital.

Mr Bembet gave assurance that the lack of a telephone link between the two cities which are separated by the River (Zaire or Congo according to each country's denomination) would be remedied "in the next months."

The minister, who will today conclude his official visit begun last Saturday, said he had handed a message from Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso to his Zairian counterpart, Mobutu Sese Seko. But he did not disclose its contents.

Mr Bembet was received today by First State Commissioner Kengo wa Dondo, and by Ramazani Baya, new state commissioner for information, mobilization, propaganda, and political action. He held several rounds of talks with Mukuku W'Etonda, secretary of state for posts and telecommunications [title as heard], with whom he inspected telecommunications facilities in the Zairian capital.

BURKINA

Defense Minister Returns From Visit to Algeria

AB262231 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Summary] "Algeria and Burkina are two revolutionary countries working hand in hand toward the development of their respective peoples. In this regard, cooperation between the two countries is being rightly intensified." It is within the framework of strengthening the ties between our two countries that a Burkinabe delegation has just ended a week's visit to that brotherly country. "It was led by Major Jean-Baptiste Lingani, commander in chief of the National Armed Forces High Command and minister of national defense and veterans' affairs. Questions touching essentially on national defense were examined with the Algerian authorities.

On his return from that official, working visit to Algeria, the minister met the press this afternoon and explained the purpose of his visit:"

Lingani said: I led a delegation on an official visit to Algeria at the invitation of the Algerian authorities. So the visit fell within the framework of the friendly relations existing between the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and our country, Burkina Faso. We also "made the visit within the framework of the good relations existing between the Algerian People's Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of Burkina Faso. This visit made it possible for us to take stock of the military cooperation between Algeria and our country in all fields of operation. We took stock of the cooperation in the areas of training, equipment of (?the Army)," and in many other fields.

A reporter then asked: "You spoke of Army training." Can you give us more details in this connection?

Lingani replied: Algeria stands by "the side of our people in the framework of the defense of the (?revolution)." In this field, as in many other fields, cooperation will always be beneficial.

A reporter asked: "Comrade Minister, what is the level of cooperation between Burkina and Algeria?"

Lingani answered: "Algeria is a privileged partner of Burkina Faso." The cooperation between Burkina and Algeria is being strengthened.

Former Foreign Minister Released From Detention

AB261743 Paris AFP in French 1541 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Ouagadougou, 26 Feb (AFP) — Arba Hama Diallo, a former minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation in the first National Council of the Revolution [CNR] government which came to power in 4 August 1983, was released this morning in Ouagadougou after almost 4 months of detention, official sources disclosed.

This release, the same sources specify, appears to have stemmed from the wish of the CNR to "encourage all those with good will and who are desirous of making a positive contribution to the ongoing revolutionary process" in Burkina Faso.

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

Senegalese Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

AB270630 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Dr Daouda Sow, the speaker of the National Assembly, arrived late this morning in Praia at the head of a parliamentary delegation which is on a 4-day official and friendly visit Cape Verde. Apart from Dr Daouda Sow, the delegation consists of Louis da Costa, the deputy speaker of the National Assembly and president of the Senegal-Cape Verde Friendship Group; Kalipha Habacar Fall, an elected secretary; (Abdulai Djem), an elected secretary; and Mamadou Wade, also an elected secretary of the National Assembly.

The parliamentarians were welcomed on arrival by the speaker of the People's Assembly of Cape Verde, [name indistinct]; and Dr Eduardo Alberto Gomez Rodriguez, the president of the Cape Verde-Senegal Friendship Group.

In an address at the [name indistinct] international airport, Dr Daouda Sow stressed the need for fraternity.

[Begin Sow recording] As usual, whenever a Senegalese official comes to Cape Verde, he feels at home. He is with his brothers and friends. As such, my impressions here are those of fraternity and friendship. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank my colleague for the warm welcome accorded us as soon as we arrived in this beautiful country — the Republic of Cape Verde. I feel like a person who is in his own home and [words indistinct]. [end recording]

GHANA

Trial of Plotters Against Government Begins in Accra

AB262046 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The trial began in Accra this afternoon before the Public Tribunal of six people accused of plotting against the government. According to the GHANA NEWS AGENCY, five of the accused are serving personnel of the Ghana Armed Forces. They are Major General Ocran, Major Hamlet Akwasi Twumasi Antoh, Sergeant Joe Issaka, Sergeant Oduro Frimpong, and Sergeant Francis Yao Anku. The sixth is Shaibu Ibrahim, alias Baba.

Before presenting the facts of the case, the special public prosecutor applied to the tribunal for the proceedings to be held in camera under the provisions of Section 13 C of the Public Tribunals Law, 1984, Provisional National Defense Council L 78 on grounds of state security, for public interest, as well as the accused persons' own safety. The tribunal, after retiring into

chambers, returned later and announced that it had granted the special public prosecutor's application and directed the special public prosecutor to provide all the accused persons with reasonable facilities, including their rights to consult lawyers of their own choice to enable them to prepare their defenses.

All the accused persons were present in court. Two other persons, who were absent, are to be tried separately. They are Malam Abdul Aziz and Lance Corporal Michael Asiedu.

IVORY COAST

Party Leaders Meet To Discuss Social Situation

AB262110 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Summoned by His Excellency Felix Houphouet-Boigny, chairman of the party and head of state, the Political Bureau of the PDCI-RDA [Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally] today held a meeting from 1100 to 1400. During this important working session, extended to members of the government, the members of the Political Bureau carefully examined the country's social situation, which continues to be affected by the persistent economic crisis. The party leaders examined in particular the problems arising from the measures of salary alignment of staff of the national public establishments, EPN, with the salaries of their brothers in the civil service. To this end, the Political Bureau reminds the public that to rescind these decisions — made 2 years ago by the national council of the party and now implemented by the government — is out of the question.

Informed of the negative attitude of some staff members affected by the salary alignment measures, the members of the Political Bureau, with a view to avoiding any misunderstanding and within the framework of the dialogue so dear to the party, have decided to meet EPN officials and staff in order to shed more light on the issue. However, the Political Bureau calls on all militants to double their efforts to fight the attitude of being dependent on public assistance, which continues to be on the mind of some of our countrymen, and firmly warns EPN staff who fish in troubled waters and try to deceive some of their colleagues. Those who will allow themselves to be deceived in the course of the implementation of these salary alignment measures will have to face serious sanctions, because no laxity will be tolerated in these times of economic difficulties which has been facing the entire world for several years now.

Faithful to its policy of dialogue that has enabled our country to achieve peace and stability, the Political Bureau invites the following persons to an imporatnt meeting which will be held on Friday, 1 March 1985, at 1000 at the Congress Hall in Treichville: EPN directors and their aides; representatives of the staff of these establishments; officials of the trade unions of these establishments; and members of the Executive Bureau of the UGTCI [General Union of Ivory Coast Workers].

LIBERIA

Secom Awards Registration Certificate to LAP

AB261821 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The Liberian Action Party, LAP, was today awarded certificate of registration by the Special Elections Commission, Secom. Secom Chairman Emmett Harmon presented the certificate to LAP today at Secom headquarters on National Street in Monrovia. Mr Harmon reminded LAP officials of their great responsibility in the democratic process and admonished them to remain law-abiding in all their endeavors.

The chairman of LAP, Counselor Tuan Wreh, received the certificate and thanked Mr Harmon and members of Secom for issuing LAP a certificate. He said his party regarded the certificate as a charter of freedom on which the party will operate and promised LAP's continued cooperation with Secom in its endeavor to return the country to civilian rule. Counselor Wreh asked the commission to exercise patience in its task and hoped that LAP and Secom would continue to work together for the development of the country.

Israeli Firm To Build New Defense Ministry Complex

AB270730 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The head of state, Commander in Chief [CIC] Samuel K. Doe, has said the construction of a new defense ministry will not only provide facilities for the Army but create job opportunities for Liberians. The head of state said government attaches particular importance to the construction of public buildings because having our own ministries save government a huge amount of money spent annually on rented houses. CIC Doe expressed optimism that in spite of the present financial constraints, the Liberian Government will continue to engage in infrastructural development because he said this will help keep many of our citizens actively employed. The head of state disclosed that government intends to construct new ministries of health and social welfare, agriculture, rural development, youth and sports, and internal affairs. He then appealed to Liberia's partners in progress to assist government in this endeavor.

The Liberian leader lauded the Israeli Government for its support of development projects in the country. The head of state was speaking yesterday at ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the $20 million modern defense ministry complex to be built in Fole-Congo town. The Liberian Union Group of Companies, an Israeli-based construction firm, will construct the new complex, which will house all departments of the Ministry of National Defense.

MALI

Traore, France's Hernu Discuss Military Cooperation

AB261747 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Malian People's Democratic Union and president of the Malian Republic, received in audience French Defense Minister Charles Hernu at 1000. The strengthening of the cooperation between France and Mali in the field of defense, especially in the training sector, was at the center of their discussions. The audience took place in the presence of the permanent undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Colonel Abdoulaye (Wolegem); our minister of interior, Lieutenant Colonel Abderhamane Maiga; the president's permanent secretary, Mohamed Alousseini Toure; and the French ambassador to Mali, His Excellency Gerald de la Rouchefordiere. At the end of the audience, Charles Hernu talked to Djibril Mbow.

[Begin Hernu recording] In fact, I visited Mali on 21 January, that is, 5 weeks ago. I discussed military cooperation with the president and the Malian authorities. A few days ago, the inspector general of the French National Gendarmeries, General (Eyon), came on a mission here in Bamako, Mali, and met with Colonel Mohamed Keita, the chief of staff of the gendarmerie. That was the first mission.

Within a few days, a second mission will come here with General (Beya), the comptroller general, the (?manager) of our armies. As the French defense minister, I must meet with President Traore in between these two missions to define clearly the framework of this military cooperation. And this is what we did this morning.

I also delivered to President Moussa Traore a message of sympathy, respect, and friendship from the French president. [end recording]

PRC Radio-TV Delegation Meets Information Minister

AB261844 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The minister of information and telecommunications this morning received a 6-member delegation from the PRC Ministry of Radio and Television. During the visit, Mr (Weng), the assistant director of the technical department, explained the purpose of the PRC mission — which is to negotiate with the Malian experts on the future strengthening of our cooperation in the field of radio and television.

For her part, Mrs Gakou Fatou Niang [minister of information and telecommunications] recalled Mali's readiness to examine with the PRC side the different aspects of a mutually beneficial agreement. The minister explained that a technical document must be prepared first before the determinaiton of the level of participation in the negotiations. She was accompanied by technical advisers and the director of the Malian Radio and Television Corporation.

On the PRC side, Ambassador Zhou Hiaping was present at the discussions.

Delegation Returns From Moscow, Berlin

AB261908 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] A delegation headed by Sidiki Diarra, first deputy speaker of the National Assembly, returned to Bamako yesterday from Moscow and Berlin. While there, the delegation contacted institutions for the training of party cadres in the two countries.

NIGERIA

NAN Cites Buhari Interview With FINANCIAL TIMES

AB261731 Lagos NAN in English 1725 GMT 26 Feb 85

[By Franklin Adesegha]

[Text] London, Feb 26 (NAN) — Nigerians are disappointed with Britain's reaction to different stages of the Dikko affairs, the head of state Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, has said.

In an interview with the *FINANCIAL TIMES* newspaper published in London yesterday, Maj Gen Buhari said that Dikko's case and others, who contributed to the president predicament of the country "confirms that Britain is not treating Nigeria with the seriousness that Nigerians expect".

A Western Europe correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) quotes the paper as saying that Maj Gen Buhari said the relations between the countries "are certainly not as cordial as would have been expected considering the community of interests we share". The head of state said that Nigeria was not only Britain's largest trading partner in Africa, but also its third largest market after the EEC and the U.S. In spite of this, he said, the British Government has demonstrated "regrettable inclination to ignore our national sensitivities". He said that the Federal Military Government had made a formal request for the extradition of Dikko and "we are all waiting to see how Britain will react".

Maj Gen Buhari also condemned the conditions set by the IMF before granting loan to the country. He said in the interview that although Nigeria needed the IMF loan "we do not see the sense of devaluing the naira to the extent that the IMF wants". "We earn about 95 percent of our foreign exchange from petroleum, priced in dollars. So why the pressure on the naira?", the head of state asked. He said that most industries in the country did not have excess capacity for export, "hence the cost of the production will rise, inflation will get out of hand and we will have the riots that seem to signify the arrival of the IMF in most developing countries and we don't want to have that".

Maj Gen Buhari said that the country's strategy over the next three to five years would be based on self-reliance, although assistance and loans based on acceptable conditions from friendly nations and organizations would still be needed.

On the British Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) the head of state said that Nigeria was disappointed that the department did not show understanding about Nigeria more than the rest of the country's trading partners. NAN correspondent reports that the ECGD had played a leading role in insisting that Nigeria reached agreement with the IMF before insured trade arrears could be rescheduled.

Idiagbon Hosts Dinner for Guinea-Bissau's Correia
AB261442 Lagos NAN in English 1345 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Lagos, Feb 26 (NAN) — The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Maj Gen Tunde Idiagbon, last night in Lagos called on smaller sub-regional groupings in West Africa to harmonise their strategies with those of ECOWAS to ensure a self-sustained economic development.

Maj Gen Idiagbon said at a dinner at State House, Marina, in honour of the visiting vice president of Guinea-Bissau, Mr Panlo Correia, that if this was done it would also ensure a larger market and easier access to foreign financial assistance for the countries in the sub-region. He said that Nigeria was distressed by the effects of the drought in Africa, especially in the Sahel region and that that was why the Federal Government made a contribution of five million dollars (about N4.1 million) to the OAU emergency fund for drought relief.

The chief of staff urged African countries to devote closer and urgent attention to the improvement of the social and economic well-being of their peoples, if they were to preserve their sovereignty. He said that since the call for a new international economic order had fallen on deaf ears, African and Third World countries should explore the potentials of South-South cooperation.

Maj Gen Idiagbon said that Nigeria and Guinea-Bissau had a duty to accelerate the process of change in southern Africa by increasing their political and material support for the liberation movements in the area. He said that Nigeria appreciated the economic and security circumstances that led some frontline states to sign security agreement with South Africa and warned that those agreements should not be used as an excuse by other African countries for making contacts with the racists or extending landing rights and other facilities to them.

Maj Gen Idiagbon noted that to win the struggle against racism and economic exploitation, it was imperative for Africa to be peaceful. He called for an end to the conflicts in Chad and Western Sahara. According to Gen Idiagbon, Nigeria believes that the people of Chad should be assisted to work out a comprehensive formula acceptable to all the parties to the conflict while the parties in the Western Sahara dispute should abide by OAU resolution 104, which calls for a cease-fire, direct negotiation between Morocco and the SDAR as well as a referendum to enable the Sahrawi exercise their right to self-determination. Praising the people of Guinea-Bissau for the success of their armed struggle against Portuguese colonialism before gaining independence in 1974, the chief of staff said that their victory had become a great source of inspiration to liberation movements in southern Africa.

Mr Correira said that the success of their armed struggle would not have been possible without the support of countries like Nigeria. He added that the visit had afforded him the opportunity of knowing about indigenous Nigeria technology which, he said, would be useful to them in Guinea-Bissau. Mr Correia said that his country would look forward to Nigeria for encouragement in all fields of economic endeavour.

Some members of the Supreme Military Council, ministers, diplomats and top government officials attended the dinner.

Correia Departs
AB261537 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The visiting Guinea-Bissau vice president, Mr Paulo Correia, this afternoon left Lagos for home after a 4-day visit to Nigeria. He was seen off at Murtala Muhammed Airport by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, and some members of the Supreme Military Council.

CONCORD on Doe Manipulating Electoral Process
AB261352 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Feb 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *NATIONAL CONCORD* evaluates the political developments in Liberia. The paper points out that the Commander General Samuel Doe's revolutionary zeal when he seized power in 1980 has since relaxed. The *CONCORD* equally notes that the Liberian leader has continued to manipulate the electoral arrangements in spite of mounting criticisms. The paper reminds him of the consequences of such a (?practice).

ANGOLA

Security Forces Kill 50 UNITA Members

MB261226 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] In actions recently carried out by the national defense and security forces, some 50 UNITA criminals were annihilated and countless civilians who were forced to live in the bush were released. The operations were carried out in the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 10th Military Regions.

Meanwhile, authorized sources have revealed that on 13 February, two UNITA members surrendered to the Angolan authorities in the Quibala area of Cuanza Sul Province, stating that they regretted their conduct.

UNITA Claims 285 Angolan, 31 Cubans Killed 14-24 Feb

PA261539 Paris AFP in Spanish 1517 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Lisbon, 26 Feb (AFP) — A military report released today in Lisbon by the UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) states that 285 Angolan and 31 Cuban soldiers were killed from 14 to 24 February in attacks launched by UNITA guerrillas.

Also, the rebels took six Angolan prisoners and downed an Antonov-26 aircraft and an M-18 helicopter.

The actions listed by the UNITA comunique include the 22 February attack on a supply train on the Luanda-Malange line in which the rebels killed 38 government soldiers and seized "large amounts of war materiel and equipment destined for the 31st Brigade stationed 37 km from Malange."

That brigade was the target of another attack the same day which resulted in the death of 30 Angolans and 15 Cubans, according to the report.

During the same 10 days, UNITA sustained 17 dead, 31 wounded, and 9 missing.

MOZAMBIQUE

Bulgarian Envoy Comments on Bilateral Cooperation

MB271155 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The Bulgarian ambassador to Mozambique said at a press conference in Maputo yesterday that there has been a new upsurge in Mozambican-Bulgarian cooperation since the fifth session of the two countries' joint commission was held last year. The session reviewed the economic accords signed between the two countries, with a view to activating bilateral cooperation.

Andrey Takanyakov said that an accord providing for the creation of a joint marble exploration enterprise in Cabo Delgado will be signed before the joint commission holds its scheduled sixth session this year. He added that there were other projects for joint enterprises, namely tobacco farming, coconut oil and coconut fiber processing, respectively in the Nampula, Zambezia, and Inhambane Provinces. A joint wood furniture factory will also be established.

SOUTH AFRICA

R.F. Botha Speaks of New Era in Nation

MB270724 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says South Africa will find a peaceful solution to the problems relating to its heterogeneous population.

In an interview broadcast by a large number of radio stations in the United States, he spoke of a new era in South Africa. The country, he said, was being punished for mistakes and misconceptions arising from its past. This was happening at a time when a purposeful attempt was being made to move away from the past for the sake of a better future for all the people of South Africa.

Mr Botha said criticism of South Africa could well be an attempt to counter the initiatives for reform, and to prevent whites and blacks from working together without conflict.

He made it clear that neither criticism nor support of the country and its new initiatives would influence the government in its aims to bring about a fair deal for all. Mr Botha said the reform process in South Africa was not a result of international pressure. The only consideration was recognition of the right of people to self-determination.

Le Grange On ANC Training, Infiltrators, UDF

MB261532 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] South Africa's minister of law and order has revealed that the ANC, which is a prohibited organization in South Africa, has decided apparently in desperation to train terrorists within the country. Twenty-seven such locally trained terrorists have been arrested in northern Natal Province after attending a short course, he says, and there could be more of them in South Africa.

Speaking in Johannesburg, the minister, Mr Louis le Grange, has said the 45 terrorists who had infiltrated South Africa from Botswana has also been identified. They had had plans to commit acts of terror in several places in the Western Transvaal Province and in the Johannesburg area. The 45 infiltrators had been arrested, the minister said, and the Government of Botswana had been informed of the [word indistinct]. Botswana had also been informed that the terrorists were undergoing crash courses on its territory and the matter had been solved through negotiation.

With reference to the United Democratic Front [UDF], Mr le Grange said that there were organizations and individuals involved with the UDF whose activities could not be tolerated much longer. He said the UDF undoubtedly had the same aims as the ANC and the Communist Party. The minister said that the unrest in South Africa revolved around the UDF and its affiliates and it was aimed at making the country ungovernable.

Viljoen Discusses Upgrading of Crossroads Camp
MB270748 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The South African minister of cooperation, development, and education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, says he is prepared to consider the upgrading and renewal of the Crossroads and KTC [expansion unknown] squatter camps near Cape Town. Speaking in the Assembly during a special debate on Crossroads, Dr Viljoen said he wanted to invite members of the Crossroads committee and other representatives of people living in the area for talks to include the quality of life of the people living there.

He said the talks might include work for the unemployed, and the position of so-called illegal residents. But, Dr Viljoen said, the government could not give a specific undertaking that resettlement would not take place in the future. Even if renewal were to take place at Crossroads, there were only 3,000 sites available. At the moment, there were 10,000 dwellings.

The special debate on crossroads had been called by the opposition Progressive Federal Party spokesman on cooperation and development, Mr Ray Swart, who appealed to the government to give assurances that there would be no forced removals from the area. Mr Swart said the government had to give immediate attention to upgrading Crossroads as a settled community. Unnecessary police raids had to stop and informal business activities had to be allowed.

Radio Freedom: First Task To Make RSA Ungovernable
EA261841 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Station Commentary: "Let Us Heighten Our Revolutionary Effort"]

[Excerpts] Compatriots, it is clear to everyone in our country now, both the regime and the popular masses, that the apartheid system is in tatters, that it is only living on borrowed time. Everyone, including the diehard racist, is aware that apartheid is in crisis, ever deepening crisis. The current mass uprisings that continue to spring up in different parts of our country clearly indicate that our people are no longer prepared to be ruled in the same old way.

Last week, following the revelation that the enemy wanted to evict our brothers in the crossroads area and dump them in the Kayelitsha township, more than 40 km from Cape Town, the whole of the (?Cape) [words indistinct] went up in flames. The racist Louis le Grange [minister of law and order] even lamented, saying that his police could no longer tolerate the undermining of the apartheid state authority. He tried to intimidate us by announcing that his police had been given strict orders to carry out duties effectively.

These above-mentioned uprisings and many others, though having different causes, led to one basic cause, which remains the lack of political decisionmaking on the part of the black majority. Since we have been deprived the fight to a ballot box, we found ourselves forced to vote with petrol bombs.

When we say we don't want councillors, the regime (?defies us) and imposes them, so our only alternative is to attack them then to remove them. When we say we don't want policemen in our residential areas and the regime arrogantly goes ahead to bring them, what are we expected to do, because we have no other effective channel of communication?

The only way out is to force those policemen out and to force them out means we have to shoot them from (?behind). They must be made to feel our anger. Our people have been saying over the years that they don't want higher rents and that the regime must stop this policy of evicting us to the barren bantustans, but the enemy has demonstrated openly that it is not prepared to live in [word indistinct]. So what else can we do? We have to attack everything that is an apartheid entrenchment, [words indistinct] administrative buildings or collaborators.

So, for us to intensify our offensive, it is important that we come together and work as a [words indistinct]. When the enemy attacks the people of the [words indistinct], the response must come from all over the country. The enemy must be confronted all over. It is high time that we learned to coordinate all our activities and act as a nation. What the (?students) are doing that when they say they want Students Representative Council [SRC] they come out throughout the country as the most effective way of pushing forward our mass demands [sentence as heard].

The first task facing us is to make our country ungovernable. Our attention must be focused on the question of power. We must start seeing all our battles today against high rents or bus fares, [words indistinct] for higher wages or for the establishment of the SRC. We must see them as a fight against the criminal Botha-Malan regime. In the words of Comrade Tavo Mbeki, the ANC's director for information and publicity, we must now pin on our banners the demands: Botha must go.

SWAZILAND

R.F. Botha, Mnisi Speak at Trade Mission Opening
MB261840 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, last night paid tribute to the late King Sobhuza II and described him as the advocate of peace and and stability in the southern Africa region. Mr Botha said the late king had a clear vision and saw great southern Africa in all spheres of cooperation. The foreign minister was speaking last night at the Swazi Sun Convention Center at the function to mark the official opening of the South African trade mission in Swaziland.

He said the opening of the trade mission was the fulfillment of the late king's ideals, adding that the mission was a symbolic, historical proof of good neighborliness. He said the mission would go a long way in enhancing the warm relations the two governments have enjoyed in decades. He praised the Swazi people for their spirit of togetherness in all that they undertake. He said the Swazis were pioneers in bringing progress to their country, and to southern Africa as a whole.

Mr Botha also commended the queen regent and the supreme council of state, Liqoqo, for the good spiriti of friendship that has continued to grow between the two countries. He said for closer cooperation in fighting against intruders, and added that in times of war we shall all perish and in times of hunger we shall all suffer. [sentence as heard] As time for change has come, Mr Botha said, although Swaziland and South Africa differ politically, mutual respect was desired in all that the two governments do.

Commenting on the disinvestment campaign waged by United States Senator Edward Kennedy, Mr Botha said Senator Kennedy is preaching a gospel of doom that will not only make South Africa suffer, but the whole of southern Africa.

Responding to Mr Botha's remarks, the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, said the opening of the South African trade mission in Swaziland will enhance the course of peace and tranquillity in the region. He said this mission was a milestone in further strengthening long-established trade links that existed informally between the two countries. Mr Mnisi appealed to Mr Botha to do all in his power to discourage an exodus of business concerns from Swaziland to other areas.

ZIMBABWE

'Panorama' Examines Domestic Political Situation

LD262056 London BBC Television Network in English 2125 GMT 25 Feb 85

["Panorama" series with correspondent David Lomax: "Comrade Bob's Election"; an examination of the political and security situation in Zimbabwe]

[Text] [Lomax] Today, 5 years after the end of the Rhodesian war, there is still no peace in parts of independent Zimbabwe. Here houses are being burned and people killed. These are so-called dissidents who were caught recently by the Army. [video shows bodies of dead soldiers with weapons] According to the government they were supporters of the opposition and were trained and armed in South Africa. They were sent here, it is said, to destabilize the country and murder local officials of the ruling party. The government predicts this campaign will intensify as the elections approach.

In the capital the prime minister has started electioneering already. Here he is to address the Womens League on his own ZANU-PF Party. [video shows Mugabe entering a building, women chanting and dancing, Mugabe standing behind a table, clapping]

[Mugabe] [Word indistinct] ZANU! [Word indistinct] Womens league! [Word indistinct] National Assembly! [Words indistinct] my elections. [Words indistinct] one-party state! [cheers from audience] The dissident party and its dissident father are both destined not only for rejection but for utter destruction as well. [cheers from audience]

[Lomax] Five years ago, in the capital Harare, the old Salisbury, Mr Mugabe's government inherited a strong, white-owned economy. Today, the country has not fallen apart, as many Rhodesians said it would, and the prime minister has been able to consolidate his authority. The press, radio, and television are all government-controlled and can be relied upon to report favorably on the ruling affairs of the ZANU-PF Party.

On the outskirts of the capital at Hero's Acre, Mr Mugabe and his party have commissioned a memorial to the liberation struggle. It is being designed by North Koreans in a style reflecting the glories of socialism. Relief panels depict the history of the war and describe the credit for victory to Mr Mugabe himself. There is no mention of the contribution of any other guerrilla leader.

Mr Mugabe's partner in the war is known by his supporters as the father of Zimbabwe. Today, Mr Joshua Nkomo has been abandoned by his wartime comrade, he has been outmaneuvered and outwitted, a victim of the country's sectarian divisions.

The population of Zimbabwe is divided into two main linguistic and tribal groups, and there is a long history of violent rivalry between them. The larger is the Shona-speaking group, nearly 6 million people; the other is the Ndebele of Matabeleland, about 1 and 1/2 million people. Even during the war, the guerrillas' organizations reflected these tribal distinctions.

In the war, Mr Nkomo's army was called ZIPRA. It was mainly recruited from Matabeleland and was much better trained and armed than Mr Mugabe's forces. Mr Nkomo kept ZIPRA in reserve in Zambia for much of the war. His army had a feared reputation, but it was Mr Mugabe's men who did most of the fighting in Rhodesia.

It was the Lancaster House agreement, under the chairmanship of Lord Carrington, which finally brought an end to the war. Mr Mugabe's equal partner in the Patriotic Front was Mr Nkomo. Back in Zimbabwe all went well for the first 2 years of independence. In the House of Assembly, Mr Nkomo accepted a cabinet post and sat next to Mr Mugabe and his deputy. Other members of Mr Nkomo's ZAPU Party were given senior posts.

It wasn't long, however, before the strains of ancient tribal rivalries began to show. Arms, allegedly from ZIPRA, were found hidden in Matabeleland. They should have been surrendered to the new national army, but many ZIPRA men had deserted and taken their guns with them. Mr Mugabe immediately sacked Mr Nkomo and accused him of plotting a coup. Mr Nkomo has always denied that he controls dissidents:

[Nkomo] Mr Mugabe knows that I am not that type of man. And he wished that I had done it, he wishes that there was an attempt against him so that he would have taken authentic action against me, when he felt (?that there was) organized dissidence in my name.

[Mugabe] The fact that we have not arrested him is purely out of deference to him, that he is old, he has played that part in the past in the revolution. We would have picked him [as heard] a long time ago, without any qualms.

[Lomax] But two of Nkomo's ZIPRA generals were arrested: (Domiso Debengwa) and (Luka Masuku). They have been detained for 3 years.

[Mugabe] We happen to know that they were responsible for this exercising, hiding these arms. (Domiso Debengwa) went to Zambia and persuaded the Zambians to send the arms to ZAPU, to ZIPRA, rather than to government.

[Lomax] But why haven't you brought this evidence against them in court?

[Mugabe] We, we have... [changes thought] well, in court he will say, of course, that he never said any such thing. And you know the procedures, the English procedure requires that there should be that clear evidence before you can actually....

[Lomax, interuptting] But if you can't prove that he is guilty, why do you still continue...

[Mugabe, interrupting] We can still prove, with our own intelligence information, that he is guilty, sufficiently guilty to be able to be detained.

[Lomax] Why don't you put him on, in front of court?

[Mugabe] We have put him in detention for the same reason that you need, the technicalities, the procedures that are required, require that evidence must be sufficiently substantial, clear, and must leave the judges in no doubt that the person has committed the acts.

[Lomax] In the last 3 years the police have picked up more than 650 people, including 2 British subjects, who are all being held without charge. Most are supporters of Mr Nkomo's ZAPU.

[Addressing Mugabe] I understand that there are six senior members of ZPAU's Central Committee who are also being held without charges: there is Kenneth (Mano), there is George (Marange), (Angelina Masuku), Norman (Zickave), (?Tindu Kanduluv). These people have not been charged. They have not been brought before a court.

[Mugabe] Yes, yes, that is quite true. But if you realize that we have dissidents emanating from ZIPRA, operating in Matabeleland north, and who have committed all kinds of atrocities, and have kidnapped whites, who are white visitors, who we have not been able to account for, have, on a daily basis, a campaign to kill, to rape, to commit arsons, to destroy property which is being used for purposes of development in those areas, government property, that is, then obviously you should be surprised that the number of former ZIPRA commanders and ZAPU leaders is that low.

[Lomax] Mr Nkomo says to us: Did you really fight the war of liberation so that you could keep these emergency powers acts, to keep being able to pick up people and detain them without charge? Was that really what it was all about?

[Mugabe] The question I'll ask him is: Did we fight this war so that Nkomo would be in power, or did we fight this war so that the people would have a great authority, a sovereignty of their own to return whatever party or leader they desired to power?

[Lomax] After 20 years of travelling all over the world, enlisting arms and money for Zimbabwe, Mr Nkomo has now been reduced to leading a beleaguered minority party.

[Nkomo] What he has done over the last 4 years, as far as I am concerned as a person, has been very hard on me. I have suffered in these 3 years — the first 4 years of our independence — than I ever suffered in 30 years of the struggle, of all types of struggle — first by talking and second by armed struggle. I have never suffered as a person and I have never seen the people suffer in this country as they suffer under this government. I have never.

[Lomax, addressing Mugabe] But Mr Joshua Nkomo of ZAPU, your partner in the liberation struggle, he says that he is convinced there is a deliberate policy to intimidate his supporters, a deliberate policy by you and your party.

[Mugabe] Nkomo should be the last man to say that. He is for now the only person with an active antigovernment force operating in the country which is armed and eliminating people, harassing them in both Matebelelands, north and south, and is being armed by South Africa. He is the only one who with that kind of an illegal force operating within Zimbabwe today.

[Lomax] It is alleged that from six camps in South Africa, armed dissidents are infiltrated via Botswana. The government claims that these are the men who took orders from Mr Nkomo and killed ZANU-PF officials. These allegations are difficult to check but have provoked anti-ZAPU riots. The police haven't gone out of their way to stop them.

Meanwhile, new voters have been taking an oath of loyalty to Zimbabwe. Elections have to be held soon under the terms of the Lancaster House agreement. Without them, Western aid to Zimbabwe might be at risk. So the process of preparing for the elections continues. Mr Mugabe's ruling party is gaining strength every day. He is guaranteed to win.

When Zimbabwe's House of Assembly ended its last session, this was the state of the parties: of the 80 black seats, Mr Mugabe's party, ZANU-PF, held 57; Mr Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU held 20; and Bishop Muzorewa's United African National Council [UANC], 3 seats. Of the 20 seats reserved for whites, Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian prime minister and leader of the Conservative alliance, held 7 seats; so-called independent white MP's held the remaining 13.

Bishop Muzorewa recently spent nearly a year in detention without trial. He was suspected of plotting with South Africa. Nothing was proved and he was released. Now he is planning a political comeback. Bishop Muzorewa signed the Rhodesian internal settlement and became prime minister. He was accused by Mr Mugabe of being a stooge of the whites. Today, the bishop is equally critical of him.

[Muzorewa] He has never made an effort to unite the nations, I mean the nation, because the fact that as a prime minister whenever he takes the platform to address a rally he is denouncing other leaders, he is denouncing all the political parties, and, therefore, the other people get angry and they feel unwanted in Zimbabwe. We are fortunate that we have not had an exodus of people going to be refugees elsewhere, when you consider that people are being beaten up. So I want to believe that if they are directed to be peaceful they would, but Mugabe is the one who starts inciting people everytime he takes the floor to speak.

[Lomax] Other minority parties complain of similar difficulties all over Zimbabwe. Here, for instance, in the former tribal trust land of (?Witsa), Mr Mbaudi Zengeni has come to organize meetings and visit his family. And it is significant, perhaps, that his relatives are worried that he has brought strangers here.

[Zengeni] Nobody in this area can hold a meeting peacefully because the ruling party will always come, or the supporters will, or the supporters of the ruling party will always come and disturb. I have heard of lots and lots of problems personally. I was born here, I live here, and I intend to live here. But, as I can see, my mother, just to see me here she is frightened that people will kill me.

[Lomax] ZANU-PF supporters actually come around here and say what?

[Zengeni] No, they don't come; they live here. They are members of ZANU-PF who tell people they don't want any other party here; this is a one-party state district.

[Lomax] And they threaten people?

[Zengeni] Yes.

[Lomax] With what?

[Zengeni] With eviction, they threaten that they will burn your house, threaten that they will burn your crops, they threaten that they will tell the government to take your land from you and all; many such things. Because here land and life is synonomous.

[Lomax] Even in a small place like (Witsa), Mr Mugabe's ruling party has its own office. And it is from here that ZANU-PF Party membership cards are sold at about 2 pounds each. It seems that many people buy these cards and carry them at all times for protection.

[Zengeni] Everybody here, every person in (Witsa) must have a ZANU-PF card. It's only me who doesn't. In fact, I've got one, my own mother bought one for me. She was told if he comes here without that party card, he will be a dead man.

[Lomax] You mean people are forced to buy membership cards of the ruling party?

[Zengeni] Yes, they are.

[Lomax] And what happens if they don't?

[Zengeni] Oh, your life would be miserable. (They'll) come day after day, and my house has been raided, my place has been raided several times. [They allege that] I have got guns, I have got this, I've got the other. I'm a dissident. Anybody who doesn't support the ruling party in this part of the world is said to be a dissident.

[Lomax] Throughout the country any opposition to the ruling party is now becoming increasingly difficult.

[Mugabe] ZANU is the people's party, and all those who stand outside it must come into the ZANU family, or else they are rejected by the people. It is through such words and such messages that we can build a permanent ZANU state, a one-party state in Zimbabwe.

[Lomax] Why do you want a one-party state?

[Mugabe] Because we believe we need the oneness of our society. I don't see the sense, really, in the multiparty state as you have it in Britain or in the United States or in Western Europe. People are one, they are one society; they have one government, and therefore they should have one party. Within that party, of course, we must have a measure of democracy; and that measure must enable the people to debate issues as frankly as they can, get to a majority decision. Once they have that decision, that is the decision that must be binding on them. It's really in keeping with our traditions and our own philosophy of an African society.

[Lomax] Until the Lancaster House agreement runs out in 1990, the constitutional barrier against a one-party state is provided by whites, and in particular by Mr Mugabe's old enemies in the Rhodesian regime, men like "Boss" Lilford, founder of the Rhodesian Front [Republican Front predecessor], and P.K. van der Byl, the former foreign minister who now lives mainly in South Africa.

Most whites enjoy a high standard of living whatever their affiliations. Since independence many have left, but there are still about 100,000 here. They're influential in the economy but not involved in the power struggle now taking place among blacks. Politically, however, they still have a voice.

Mr Ian Smith, the former prime minister of Rhodesia and the most renowned of Mr Mugabe's critics, is still here. He's an MP and has a farm in Matabeleland and a house in Harare. Mr Smith has no sense of irony when he criticizes the government's record, although at first it did seem a though Mr Mugabe welcomes his advice.

[Smith] He started talking in public about the one-party state, and I knew that it was damaging morale internally. I also knew that it was prejudicing outside investment. These were two of the most important ingredients that we needed for the success of the country. So I told him at one of the meetings I had with him that it was wrong, that he was damaging the country, and I mentioned those two particular points, and said I had refrained from criticizing him in public up to the present, and I asked my party to do likewise, but I wanted to make it clear now that I could no longer do this. I didn't want to be dishonest. I wanted to tell him that I would have to openly oppose his one-party state — that line of his. It was the first time I could see that he was displeased with what I told him, and ever since then he's refused to see me again. So I think it would be disastrous for this country. I believe many of the people who would say to you today: It's not so bad, we're making the most of it — are nevertheless hoping that the Mugabe government are going to get a jog in this election.

[Lomax] And if that happens, what then?

[Smith] Well, then it can only be to the good, if the Mugabe government is made to realize that what they're doing is not right, that the people don't want a one-party state, that you mustn't put decent people into prisons simply because they disagree with you politically — and I tell you there are many more blacks, of course, than whites.

[Lomax] But did you not have that when you were in charge? Did you not have laws which could hold people, detain people without charge?

[Smith] Yes, but not in conflict with a decision of the courts. We never did that. There is a significant difference: We were at war. It is accepted that under special circumstances you're entitled to do this. We had the whole world trying to undermine us, even our friends in the free world — Britain, the United States — and all the communists. We had terrorists within our country. But now we're living in the (?piping) times of peace and reconciliation. There is no argument for it now. Why do we got to have this now, if the government has all of the people behind them, if they have what in the end they were fighting for? We're living in peace, that's a difference, and (who's) to say: Oh, it looks [words indistinct]. Of course, there's no comparison. Many of the things are being done now which we didn't do, even though we were at war, fighting for our lives, for our very existence.

[Lomax] Deep in the heart of his own tribal homeland is the only place where Mr Mugabe's main political opponent can hold election rallies. His party has 20 seats but can't advertise its meetings. Mr Nkomo has tried to campaign outside Matabeleland, but every time there is organized disruption. His car still bears the marks of an angry reception at (Masvinge) last month, from which he only narrowly escaped with his life.

[Nkomo, addressing rally] People have been picked up and not returned. Reports we have received is that these people attacking away [as heard], these reports come from people who have escaped, escaped from these killers. These killers drive them far away from their homes, they are tied around the neck with a rope, two fellows pull the rope across [Nkomo gestures in opposite directions], and the fellow is strangulated and then has his throat cut by a knife.

[Lomax] The mood of these meetings is so tense now that an incident is provoked merely by a rumor that a solitary government agitator has been discovered here.

[Video shows man gesticulating to man in police uniform]

[Unidentified man, to policeman] This chap is a ZANU man. This is the chap who has been provoking them and beating people here. That is what we are trying to discover from him. We just want him to find out whether it is true that that chap is a ZANU man. Then if he is, that is dreadful provocation. We are not prepared to accept that. That chap in the car. Then if that is true, then that is provocation. We are not prepared to accept that. We don't care who says what. We must investigate and find out.

[Lomax] In this case the incident is defused when the police order the suspect to leave. [Video shows truck pulling out] But there have been other meetings where government party supporters, with the connivance of the police, have forced Mr Nkomo to cancel his visit.

But this is what happened in the north of Matabeleland last month, after Mr Nkomo's supporters voted for ZANU councillors in the local elections. Mr Mugabe's party didn't win a single seat. [Video shows burnt-out huts]

According to local people, ZANU-PF supporters suddenly arrived in buses with military escorts. Many small holdings and housings were burned, and only now have the owners dared to come back to repair the damage. They have no doubt about who caused it.

[Video shows man with hammer pounding on post]

[Unidentified man with hammer] I know it is ZANU, ZANU-PF.

[Lomax] So it's a ZANU-PF youth brigade who came here?

[Man] Yeah, they came here.

[Lomax] And what did they do?

[Man] They came to kill the people. [passage indistinct]

[Lomax] They killed people here?

[Man] Yeah, one man [words indistinct].

[Lomax] Refugees have filled ZAPU's offices in Bulawayo, there are many here say they have been beaten up by Mr Mugabe's supporters.

[Unidentified man] I was beaten by the youth [word indistinct]. They came on, 20, 27, at five in morning.

[Lomax] At 5:00 in the morning?

[Unidentified man] Yes.

[Lomax] And what happened then?

[Man] They wanted some cards from ZANU. If you haven't got that card you are beaten.

[Lomax] And you didn't have a ZANU-PF card?

[Man] No, I haven't got it.

[Lomax] So what did they do?

[Man] So they asked me: Where's your card? And I told them that [word indistinct]. And they said sit down. [passage indistinct]

[Lomax] What, with sticks?

[Man] Yeah, and iron bars.

[Lomax] Iron bars?

[Man] Yeah, all (these places).

[Camera pulls back to reveal that man has bandages on arms and legs. Man turns around to reveal lacerations on back.]

[Lomax] Those marks on your back.

[Video shows another unidentified shirtless man facing camera]

[Unidentified man] It was on the 25th of January. [Words indistinct] a posse at the (Nkaya) business center. Then the orders asked to come out. [sentence as heard] Then we came out. They asked me whether, have I got any ZANU card. I said: No, I haven't got it. Then one of the gentlemen came and pulled me from the line and said: Yes, you are the councillor. Come here.

[Lomax] He said you were a ZAPU councillor?

[Man, nodding] ZAPU councillor.

[Lomax] And you didn't have a ZANU-PF card?

[Man] No.

[Lomax] So what happened then?

[Man] Then he started beating me and said: How were your reelected? I said: I don't know from these people. [sentence as heard] Then he beat me with iron sticks, and these iron and sticks, and started kicking me. Some of my teeth, forward teeth were falling out. [man points to large gap in teeth.]

[Lomax] All over Matabeleland there are similar stories. At this hospital we found one family who had been beaten up. This woman's husband been killed, her baby burned, and her two sons taken away by the police.

[Lomax] Two hundred miles away, at (Gimila) and (Chulotso), shops have been burned. These businesses were owned by people who were accused of being sympathetic to ZAPU. Again, busloads of Mr Mugabe's supporters came here at night; they had a military escort, and starting rounding people up.

[Video cuts to unidentified man in tie and jacket standing in front of a field]

[Lomax] They took people away from here?

[Unidentified man] Yes.

[Lomax] How many people, approximately?

[Man] I suppose 40 people.

[Lomax] Forty people?

[Man] Yes.

[Lomax] And what happened to those people?

[man] I don't know.

[Lomax] But what happened to the 40 people who were taken away?

[Man] I don't know. They were coming at night, evening. They were taking people away [words indistinct].

[Lomax] And who did this? Who was it?

[Man] I don't know. They were coming by camouflage — soldiers — and they were taking people away.

[Lomax] Soldiers in camouflage uniforms?

[Man] Yes.

[Lomax] Soldiers of the Zimbabwe Army, or what?

[Man] I don't, it's not information (?I have). There were only, (?I think it's the 5th Brigade).

[Lomax] Mr Mugabe's notorious 5th Brigade has only been filmed once, at this passing-out parade in 1983. It's exclusively Shona-speaking, unquestionably loyal to the prime minister, and has been trained by instructros from North Korea.

In spite of the language difficulty, the prime minister's obviously been impressed by the North Koreans. He went to North Korea on one of his first official foreign visits after independence and witnessed many displays of highly organized dedication to the party.

[Mugabe] I would like to thank our comrades-in-arms, the instructors from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who with the assistance of instructors from our own Zimbabwe national Army have brought the men under their command to such a high standard.

[Lomax] Two years ago, when this particular film was shot, the 5th Brigade moved into Matabeleland and began a reign of terror. As the elections approach, they've been ordered back again.

[Lomax, addressing Mugabe] How do you answer the allegations that it was the Shona-speaking, North Korean-trained 5th Brigade who've been responsible for many, many atrocities against people in Matabeleland?

[Mugabe] I will want to know what these many, many atrocities are in the first place if I can answer the question. I know, of course, that there has been all kinds of propaganda made against the 5th Brigade, that the mission institutions in Matabeleland, especially Catholics, were used by Nkomo to make some propaganda in favor of ZAPU — not openly, but that's what is amounted to — against government. And they told all kinds of stories regarding alleged atrocities perpetrated by the 5th Brigade, but they failed to prove them. You see? True, there may have been one or two incidents, but wherever you have operations you're bound to have one or two untoward incidents, but not the mass graves which they talked about. Where are they? You travel the whole length and breadth of Matabeleland and you won't find a single mass grave.

[Video cuts to man digging large hole; camera closes in to reveal what appear to be human limbs covered with mud at the bottom of a trench. Man who dug the hole gets in the trench and begins tugging at the body.]

[Lomax, to man in trench] So the man's hands are tied behind his back?

[Man in trench] Yes.

[Lomax] Tied with wire?

[Man continues digging with figures, pulls out mud-covered wire or rope.]

[Man] These are two hands, you see? Two of these hands are still tied. Here is a hand.

[Lomax] How many bodies do you think are buried here in this pit?

[Man] I can't (?check) at the moment, but seeing the (place) of a big pit, over 50 bodies may be inside.

[Video shows man get out of pit; caption reads "ZAPU official"]

[Lomax] And how were the bodies brought here?

[Man] They are just (?shut) in, with the trees and so forth.

[Lomax] And when was this? Was this recently?

[Man] About 10 days.

[Lomax] Ten days ago?

[Man] Yes.

[Lomax] And how were the bodies brought here?

[Man] These bodies are brought by some Land Rovers. Maybe government trucks.

[Lomax] So you're saying Land Rovers, using this old road through the bush.

[Man] Yes, the old crossroad. Turn off, and then they come and bury these people. Quite a lot of people are missing in the country, and they may be just found (?there). Maybe quite a lot of people, maybe a few more than 50 can be in here. And there is another 50 which is of this diameter around this area.

[Lomax] We've travelled several hundred miles through Matabeleland and talked to a wide variety of people in many different villages. Independently, they all confirm the same story: There may well have been incidents here caused by gangs of so-called dissidents, but from what we've seen we're satisfied that most of the allegations of violations and atrocities are true, are recent, and are still continuing. And as the elections approach, there seems to be no doubt that most of these acts seem to have been committed either by organized gangs of Mr Mugabe's own political supporters or by certain units of the Zimbabwe national Army.

We filmed that mass grave on almost the last day of our visit to Zimbabwe. In the past, whenever bodies have been found here, the government has always blamed dissidents, and never the activities of their own troops. Earlier, we'd asked the authorities to let us see for ourselves what the Army was really doing in Matabeleland.

[Lomax, addressing Mugabe] Can we have your permission to go there and to film what the 5th Brigade is doing?

[Mugabe] The 5th Brigade is really not the only unit operating there.

[Lomax] I understand that, but we'd very much like to, because there's been so much propaganda against the 5th Brigade and we'd very much like to see what they do.

[Mugabe] Of course: No, you cannot film our operations. I mean, they cease to have any meaning at all if they are a matter for broadcasting or televising. These are operations we are conducting in secrecy, and naturally the information we get must not be exposed to the public at all.

[Nkomo] The beatings, the killing, the torture is unbelievable. Unbelievable. And those people will play it off. People are being taken daily, at night, and they disappear forever. And those who are taken to the police camp [words indistinct] (?in Bulawayo),

the torture that goes in there is a sin to be believed. [sentence as heard] And by the black people to another black man.

[Video shows high-rise building with sign "Monomatapa" on top floor.]

[Unidentifed man in tuxedo] [Words indistinct] kicks off tonight the 1985 election campaign with this dinner-dance. [applause from audience]

[Video shows well-dressed people sitting at long banquet tables laden with food.]

[Lomax] But there's little doubt about the outcome. The new establishment in Zimbabwe are now the officials of the ruling party. Whatever happens in Matabeleland or elsewhere their future is secure, and they have every reason to expect that the elections will bring them a satisfactory result. Far from the capital, in those parts of Zimbabwe contested by both major tribal groupings, there's now an increasingly bitter struggle, as Mr Nkomo and his supporters fight for their political lives. If the ruling party increases its majority, the leadership will claim a popular mandate for the next step towards a one-party state. By the time the Lancaster House Agreement runs out, in 1990, opposition parties could even be banned.

[Video shows people eating, drinking, camera pans to front table, where Mugabe is sitting beneath the Zimbabwe flag. The diners all rise and an unidentified man proposes a toast.]

[Unidentifed man] Toasting, for the good of our nation, for the success of ZANU-PF at the 1985 elections, and for the continued prosperity of ZANU-PF. To Zimbabwe! [Diners raise glasses, some say "Cheers."]

[Lomax] The distinction between Mr Mugabe's ZANU-PF Party and the state of Zimbabwe grows narrower every day.

Troop Deployment Planned To Protect Voters

MB270653 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Comrade Ernest Kadungura, says the government will deploy Army troops at polling stations to protect voters against malcontents bent on disrupting the forthcoming general election. In a speech read on his behalf by his deputy, Comrade (William Mdangana), who is in charge of paramilitary training, the minister assured the nation that no matter how much the exercise will cost, the government is prepared to protect its voters during the elections. He was speaking at a pass out parade of the 12th Infantry battalion in Nyanga yesterday.

Comrade Kadungura said the government will accept the risks of criticism, because we know it is not justified. To the graduates, Comrade Kadungura said the people looked to them for protection against dissidents who are senselessly killing and assaulting innocent civilians.